

Frequently Asked Questions:

What pollutants can rain gardens help contain?

Rain gardens can trap up to 99% of nitrates, ammonias, phosphorous, sediment, oil, heavy metals, fertilizers and other pollutants found in stormwater runoff.

Can I install a rain garden in my yard?

Yes, rain gardens are an affordable and easy way to make a difference in non point source pollution in your area. After doing simple research as to where to place your rain garden to be most effective, determining if you have an appropriate soil type, and deciding on hardy native plants, virtually anyone could install one.

Will rain gardens increase the mosquito population in my yard?

No, if they are properly designed in an area with the right soil, rain gardens will drain before mosquito eggs have time to hatch.

How much does a rain garden cost?

A rain garden should cost the same, if not less, than a typical garden. While a low lying area might take extra effort to create if it doesn't already exist, over time the garden will require less effort and fewer inputs. When planted with hardy native plants, rain gardens should not need excess fertilizer, and because the plants are in a precipitation-catching basin, they should not require any extra watering after the first season.

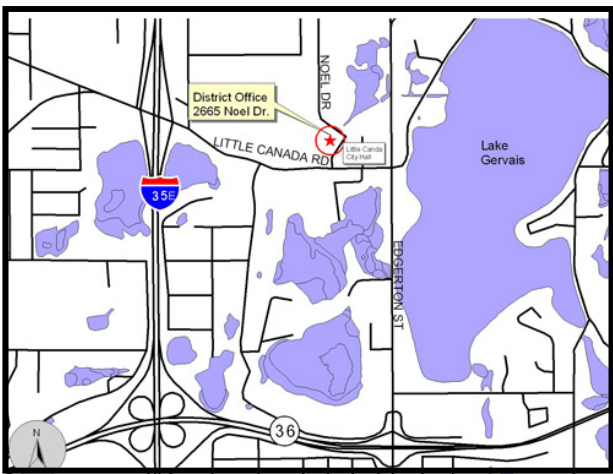
Just a few of the many native species in the RWMWD Gardens



Anise Hyssop Blue Vervain Showy Goldenrod Little Bluestem

For more information:

The Minnesota Stormwater Manual CD or Guidebook. November 2005. Available through the PCA website: www.pca.state.mn.us



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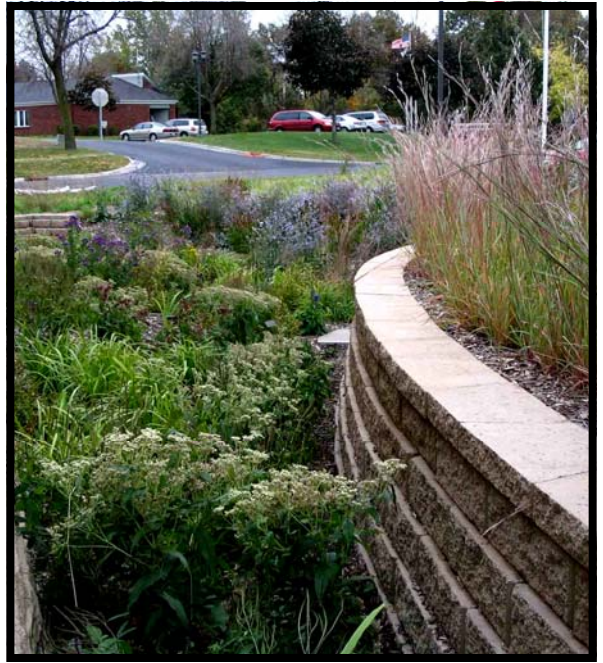
The RWMWD is a grouping of five smaller urban watersheds (Phalen Chain of Lakes, Beaver Lake, Battle Creek, Fish Creek, and East St. Paul) that drain to the Mississippi River just downstream of downtown St. Paul. We are a special purpose local unit of government with a mission to protect and improve water resources and water related environments within our jurisdiction. For more information, you can visit our website at www.rwmwd.org, or call our office at 651-792-7950.



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Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District
Office Demonstration Features



RWMWD Rain Garden Fact Sheet

Overall Goal:

To minimize the impact that our property has on Gervais Creek and downstream waters.

Purpose of This Feature:



The rain gardens were designed to work with other site features to capture 100% of the water that falls on our site. We also hope to demonstrate to the public what various types of rain gardens look like and teach about how they help improve water quality.

Design Objectives:

- Rain Gardens are a functional way to retain rain and snow melt for irrigation, but they also filter, cool, slow, and reduce the volume of stormwater entering our local water bodies.
- They allow rain to flow naturally into the ground more efficiently than a flat turf area.
- The hardy native plants improve water quality by holding on to heavy metals and filtering out pollutants from stormwater such as oil, sediment and fertilizer before it can get to streams and waterways
- Rain gardens add color and texture to a yard that would otherwise be turf.

Stormwater Flow:

The rain gardens on this site receive stormwater from two main sources: street runoff and building site runoff.

Rain gardens fed by the building site are labeled **A** and **B** below. Rain Garden **B** is the largest garden and spans the length of the building front. It collects a majority of the roof runoff that has been fed to a single pipe leading into the garden. If **B** gets full, overflow is led through a pipe to the rain garden **A**.

The four rain gardens that catch street runoff are lining Noel Drive. Rain garden **C** is at the first curb cut and therefore it receives a large amount of water. As **C** fills, overflow is directed to gardens labeled **D**, **E**, and **F** at consecutively lower elevations.



Rain Garden Specifications:

- Garden A:** Planting Strategy: Diverse mix of forbs, sedges, and grasses.
Total area: 138 sq. ft
- Garden B:** Planting Strategy: Showy and highly diverse forbs, sedges, rushes and grasses.
Total area: 1582 sq. ft.
- Garden C:** Planting Strategy: Sedges, some grasses and rushes. No forbs.
Total area: 313 sq. ft.
- Garden D:** Planting Strategy: Medium Diversity
Total area: 451 sq. ft
- Garden E:** Planting Strategy: Low Diversity
Total area: 320 sq. ft.
- Garden F:** Planting Strategy: Turf.
Total area: 369 sq. ft.

Landscape plan:

