



your neighborhood **RAIN GARDEN**

WHY SHOULD I PLANT A RAIN GARDEN?

Catching water in a rain garden allows slow filtration into the ground. This means less rainwater is lost into our storm sewers, thereby reducing flooding and erosion in our streams. Rain gardens are a beautiful way to improve the quality of water in our lakes and streams.

WHERE SHOULD I PLACE A RAIN GARDEN?

Rain gardens can be any size and shape imaginable, but it is important to choose a location where it will collect the most amount of rainfall runoff possible. Here are a few rules of thumb:

- Place your rain garden downhill from paved surfaces.
- Locate your rain garden on level to moderate slopes.
- Locate your rain garden in an existing low spot in your yard, but not where water ponds.
- Be sure to place your rain garden at least 10 feet from buildings to keep water from seeping into, and damaging the foundation.
- Just place your garden where downspouts will drain into it directing water with a shallow depression, if necessary.

WHAT PLANTS ARE BEST FOR A RAIN GARDEN?

Native plants are good choices for this landscape application because they tolerate short periods of standing water, are drought tolerant, and their deep roots make it easy for water to move down into the soil. Once established, native plants are also very low maintenance and do not require fertilizers, pesticides, or herbicides. When choosing which natives are best for your rain garden, consider height, wildlife attraction, flowering and sun/shade tolerance.



For more tips on how you can improve
water quality in your community, visit
www.marc.org/water.

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Regional Water Quality Education Program