

Currents

What is a Rain Garden?

A rain garden is planted with perennial native plants that are tolerant of both wet and dry conditions. Rain gardens sit just below ground level and capture runoff from impervious surfaces, such as rooftops and driveways, and allow it to infiltrate into the ground.



Why Plant a Rain Garden?

Stormwater runoff from residential areas often contains lawn and garden fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides, oil, yard waste, and animal waste, which cause water pollution.

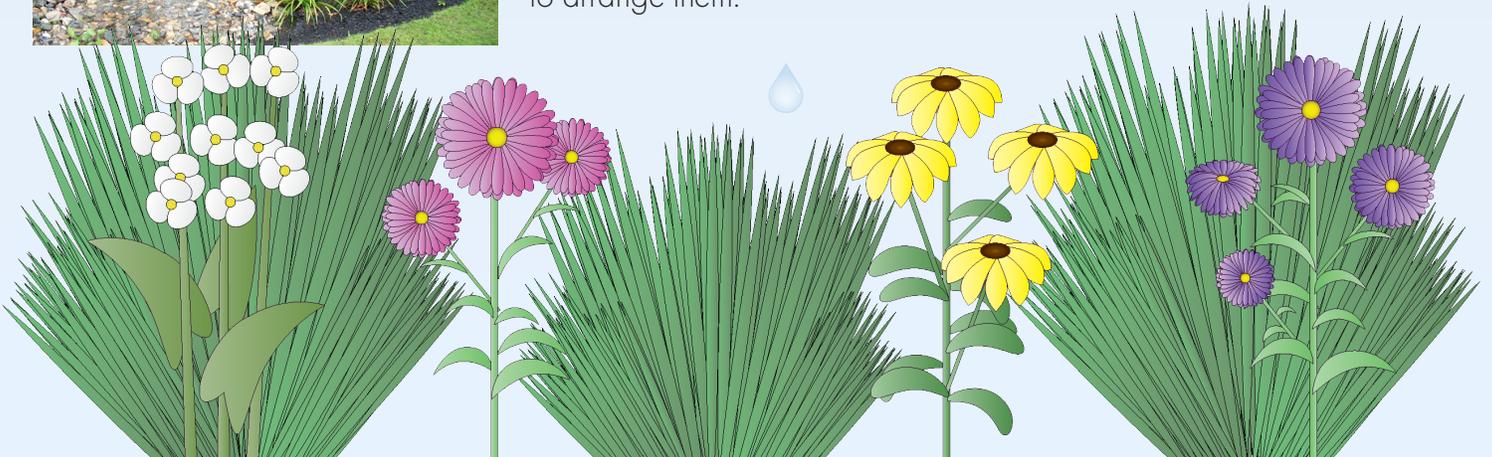
Redirecting this runoff into the ground removes phosphorus and other pollutants through a process called infiltration. This helps improve water quality of the stormwater runoff before it reaches the local rivers and Boston Harbor.

Rain gardens also reduce peak storm flows, lowering the risk for local flooding. By collecting and infiltrating rainwater that would otherwise become runoff, rain gardens return storm water to the water table and create a beautiful solution to water pollution.



How to Get Started

Visit <https://www.bwsc.org/rain-garden> to learn How to Create a Rain Garden and get useful tips for creating the most effective garden. We also include a list of the best native native plants to use and helpful ways to arrange them.



Help Prevent Stormwater Pollution:

Chemical insecticides and fertilizers can pollute stormwater runoff and ultimately contaminate our waterways. If you use fertilizers and pesticides, there are less toxic, commercially available options. Products such as *Bacillus thuringiensis*, hot pepper wax, and horticultural oils are made from natural or biological ingredients that are relatively non-toxic to humans, pets and birds. Find out more at www.mwra.com/publications/hhw2005.pdf.

If you plan to use chemicals, remember:

- Never dispose of chemicals in the trash or in the drain. Visit boston.gov/trash-and-recycling-guide for disposal information.
- Don't use chemicals in wind or prior to an expected rain weather forecast
- Follow label instructions carefully and only use the specified amount
- Avoid watering plants right after applying, unless instructions say to do so



Don't Forget – Pick Up After Your Pet!

Pet waste discarded on the street or in catch basins carries harmful bacteria straight into the waterways we rely on for recreation. Always remember to "Scoop the Poop" and dispose of pet waste in the trash. Proper disposal of pet waste protects the environment and our waterways from contamination.



Don't Dump! - Protect our Waterways

Most catch basins in Boston connect to city storm drains that discharge the runoff to the nearest brook, river or Boston Harbor. Do not dump harmful substances such as household chemicals, pesticides, automotive fluids or paints. Remember, pet waste will also contaminate, it should be disposed of properly and never put into a catch basin. Help keep our rivers and Boston Harbor clean.