

## WHY?

Why should you build a rain garden? You can be part of the "storm water pollution solution."

Rain gardens can lower the amount of flooding in your neighborhood by up to 75-80%, according to flood monitoring.

It also creates an aesthetic appeal in your community from animals, colors, and pleasant smells.

**You could be a hero to the community and to the environment.**

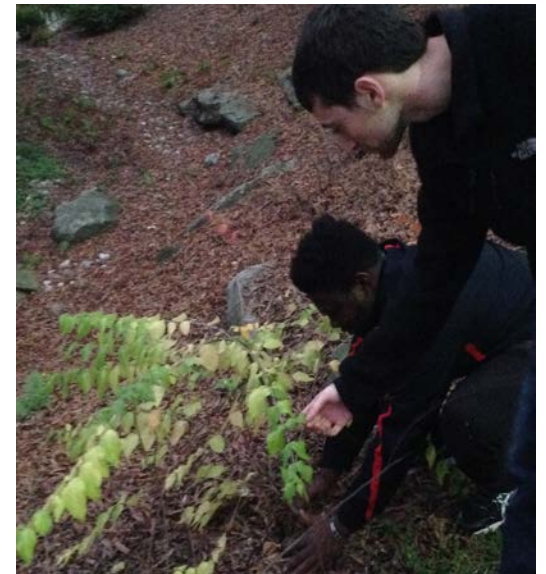


## GET INVOLVED

If you are interested in learning more about rain gardens, visit some of the following links:

1. [www.raingardenalliance.org](http://www.raingardenalliance.org)
2. [www.raingardennetwork.com](http://www.raingardennetwork.com)
3. [www.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov)
4. <https://www.soils.org/discover-soils/soils-in-the-city/green-infrastructure/important-terms/rain-gardens-bioswales>
5. <http://chesapeakestormwater.net/be-bay-friendly/rain-gardens/>
6. <http://livegreenhoward.com/green/land/gardening-landscaping/>
7. <http://www2.epa.gov/green-infrastructure/what-green-infrastructure>

## RAIN GARDENS



**The Solution to Storm Water Pollution**

Created By:

Ethan, Hunter, Nick, Sylvanus

## Purpose

Rain gardens help reduce the rapid flow of storm water in flood plains, near homes and businesses. This protects people, property and the environment from pollutants that are washed from roofs and paved areas.

### BENEFITS

- Filter runoff pollution and improve water quality in your area.
- Act as habitats for multiple species and serve as great curb appeal in your community.
- Reduce garden maintenance and the amount of your lawn care.
- Most importantly, protect communities from flooding, keeping your homes, businesses, friends and family safe.



### LAYERS OF A RAIN GARDEN

1. Sand
2. Rocks
3. Compost
4. Topsoil
5. Plants

## History

The idea of rain gardens was first conceived in 1990 by storm water specialists in the state of Maryland. They wanted to find a way to mimic the way nature handles storm water and apply it to a more urbanized area, where impervious surfaces contribute to various negative impacts on the people, property, and environment. Rain gardens are now a more effective solution to control runoff than bio retention ponds and some gray infrastructure solutions.

## How to make a Rain Garden

### LOCATION

Location, Location, Location, requirements to consider for your rain garden placement:

- Build at least 10 ft. from structures.
- Find a low point in your yard to build.
- Avoid areas where sub-surface piping may be.
- Take advantage of natural drainage patterns.

Your yard is unique and requires careful planning to build your distinctive rain garden.

### SIZE

Size does matter, a rain garden is typically:

- 6-12 inches deep, allowing quick infiltration by runoff.
- 7-20% the size of the surface that produces the runoff.

Your rain garden size will depend on your yard size, and the typical intensity of flooding in your area.

### MATERIALS

A well working rain garden usually contains:

- 50% sand.
- 30% compost.
- 20% topsoil.

A good blend will create a perfect rain garden for you property.

### PLANTS

The best idea is to pick young plants that are native to your area. Choose your plants according to:

- Color. For aesthetics.
- Root length. For absorption.
- Species. For biodiversity.
- Sunlight, and moisture needs. For your area.