VISIT OTHER GARDENS

Visiting well-designed gardens can give you ideas and talking to folks who have them can provide tips on how to do it right.

Willy Street Co-op, 1221 Williamson Street, Madison
Edgewood Campus Rain Gardens, 1000 Edgewood College Drive, Madison
Residential Site, 614 Piper Drive, Madison
Residential Site, 2245 Linden Ave., Madison

Search the Internet for more information. Go to www.co.dane.wi.us/commissions/lakes/raingarden.shtml for links to informational sites. Contact UWEX if you would like someone to speak to your community group or garden club on building rain gardens. Call 608-224-3718 to schedule a time.

This brochure was prepared as a public service by the Dane County Lakes and Watershed Commission, a coordinating and advisory agency that works to protect and improve water quality as well as the scenic, economic, recreational and environmental value of Dane County’s water resources.

Sue Jones, Watershed Management Coordinator, 608/267-0118, e-mail: lakes@co.dane.wi.us
Website: www.co.dane.wi.us/commissions/lakes/
Rain and melted snow runs off our roofs, driveways and yards, into our streets and eventually through the storm drain system to our rivers and lakes. This runoff is untreated, and carries with it all sorts of pollutants such as soil, leaves, grass, oil, salt, fertilizer, pet waste, pesticides and more, and delivers it to our rivers and lakes. Rain gardens retain runoff before it can leave your yard and keep the pollutants in the garden, where they can be absorbed into the soil. Rain gardens have the potential to soak up significantly more water than a regular lawn, improving the water quality in our rivers and lakes, replenishing our groundwater and reducing the chances for local flooding. They also happen to be beautiful and provide habitat for beneficial critters (birds, bees, butterflies, dragonflies, etc.).

**WHAT IS A RAIN GARDEN?**

A rain garden is a shallow depression in your yard that’s planted with native flowering plants and grasses. The garden not only looks great, but also soaks up rainwater and melted snow from your home’s downspouts, driveway or lawn. Water soaks into the soil and replenishes groundwater rather than becoming runoff.

**WHY PLANT A RAIN GARDEN?**

Rain gardens should be positioned to direct the runoff from your roof, driveway or downspout to the garden so that it can be absorbed into the soil rather than becoming runoff. Most likely, if you do the work yourself (the design, digging, planting) and collect seeds or plants from others you can create a fantastic garden as well. Most likely, if you do the work yourself (the design, digging, planting) and collect seeds or plants from others you can create a fantastic garden as well. Most likely, if you do the work yourself (the design, digging, planting) and collect seeds or plants from others you can create a fantastic garden as well. Most likely, if you do the work yourself (the design, digging, planting) and collect seeds or plants from others you can create a fantastic garden as well. Most likely, if you do the work yourself (the design, digging, planting) and collect seeds or plants from others you can create a fantastic garden as well. 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