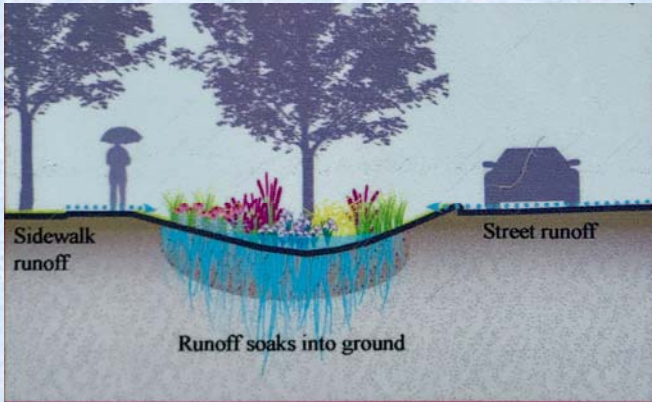


Rain Gardens: Beautify your landscaping while improving water quality

What is a Rain Garden?

A rain garden is a shallow garden planted with **flood-tolerant plants** intended to collect & **filter storm water runoff**. **Pollutants are collected** by water run off and can eventually make their way into our water ways and **lakes**. These pollutants compromise the water quality and aquatic life. Rain Gardens can help filter the **harmful nutrients** before they make their way to various water ways.

How Rain Gardens Work



Water Run-off from **hard surfaces** (roofs, driveways & streets) pick up harmful nutrients found in **fertilizer, animal waste, motor oil and other auto fluids**. The rain garden plants help the filtration of these pollutants. The filtered water is then absorbed into the soil and enters the ground water instead of flowing into the storm drain or local water ways.

There are many **resources** available to help you design and construct a rain garden on your property. Carver County even has a **cost sharing program** currently in place for water quality projects, such as rain gardens.



www.extension.umn.edu **key word:** Rain Garden
www.co.carver.mn.us **key word:** cost share
www.epa.gov/soakuptherain

According to the EPA, more than 70% of all water pollutants come from those carried by storm water run off. Rain gardens are effective at filtering 90% of nutrients & chemical pollutants and 80% of sediment from storm water flowing into them. That's 30% more effective than lawn turf!

Benefits of Rain Gardens

- Remove standing water
- Filter runoff pollution
- Attract butterflies & birds
- Recharge groundwater
- Low maintenance
- Protect rivers, streams & lakes
- Conserve water
- Assist in erosion control

Common Rain Garden Plants

Shown here are some common rain garden plants. These plants can be seen in some of the many City rain gardens through out the community.

Rain gardens usually consist of native wildflowers and grasses. They are drought & flood tolerant. Their deep roots filter run off and prevent erosion. They also provide a natural habitat for butterflies and birds.

Tall Meadow Rue



New England Aster



Butterfly Flower



Rough Blazing Star



Marsh Milkweed



Little Blue Stem



Purple Coneflower



Prairie Smoke



Black-eyed Susan

