

What does a rain garden do?

A rain garden is a man-made depression that collects runoff. The garden's mulch and plants slow down and absorb the runoff flow, removing many pollutants before the water reaches the storm drain. They are a unique landscaping piece that improves water quality while also providing a home for many birds and butterflies!

Questions? Call Us!

**City of Franklin
Stormwater Management**
109 3rd Avenue South
Franklin, TN 37064

(615) 791-3218

Visit us on the web:
www.franklintn.gov

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The City of Franklin

109 3rd Avenue South Franklin, TN 37064



Rain Gardens

A quick guide for explaining how a rain garden functions, as well as the installation and maintenance of these unique landscape features.



CITY OF FRANKLIN
STORMWATER



Benefits of a Rain Garden

If you live anywhere around the Nashville area, much of the land around you has been covered with roads, parking lots and buildings. Rain water that falls onto these hard surfaces becomes stormwater runoff that flows across paved areas, all while warming and collecting contaminants. The purpose of a rain garden is to improve the water quality of nearby streams and rivers, and to ensure that rainwater becomes available for plants as groundwater.

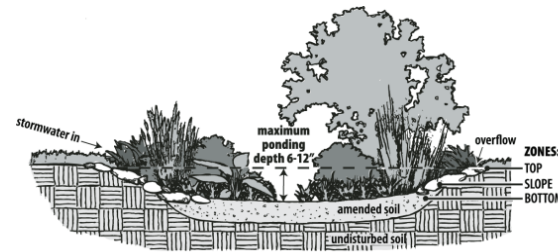
Other benefits:

- Filters runoff pollution
- Recharges the local groundwater
- Conserves water
- Protects rivers and streams
- Reduces standing water in yards
- Reduces mosquito breeding
- Reduces the potential of home flooding
- Potential to increase property values from creative landscaping design

Installation

Before installing, make sure to consider the following when deciding on placing the rain garden:

- Place at least 10ft away from home
- Do not place over any utility lines
- Determine the sq. footage of contributing flow that will be delivered to rain garden to help determine roughly how large the garden should be



A 6-12" ponding depth is recommended, with a minimum of 24" of amended soil. Many landscape companies have a rain garden amended soil mix to purchase, the contents consisting of:

- ~40% silt, 30% sand, 20% clay
- ~10% organics (mulch, compost, lawn waste)

A level bottom will allow the maximum surface area for water infiltration. It is recommended to place stones where the water will enter or overflow to prevent erosion; make sure you know where the water will overflow during heavy rain events!! Water should only pool for about 24 hours after rainfall.

What should I plant?

When deciding on what to plant, make sure that you choose native plants from your local nursery! For more help, visit:

<http://www.raingardensfornashville.com/about>

Maintenance

Here are some tips to take care of your garden:

- Only water right after planting, during the first growing season, and during times of drought
- Shredded mulch can be added annually, but take care to not bury existing plants
- Rain gardens act as a catchment—monitor for sediment and trash accumulation
- Inspect during rain events and make sure that surrounding areas are not diverting flow away or out of the garden

Skip the fertilizer!

Rain gardens thrive without the addition of any fertilizers or pesticides because the native plants are well suited for the area. Remember: their job is to **REMOVE** chemicals from runoff! Remove any weeds that do appear by hand-pulling.

Map my garden!

Do you live in Davidson County? Have you planted a rain garden? Visit the following website and let Metro know!

www.raingardensfornashville.com/map-my-rain-garden/

