

RAIN GARDENS: A different way to manage stormwater.

Rain gardens are stormwater best management practices (BMPs) that collect, treat, and infiltrate stormwater runoff. Rain gardens are both beautiful and effective. Lot grading can direct runoff from up slope lawns and patios into rain gardens. Roof downspouts can be piped into rain gardens, eliminating unsightly erosion gullies.



Rain gardens have planting areas graded to be 6 to 12 inches lower than the surrounding landscape. A 3 inch layer of hardwood mulch protects the planting area surface. Beneath the mulch, the planting area is filled with a soil mixture that supports plants and allows water to drain rapidly from the surface.



Plants use the water from the soil mixture and prosper. Excess water either infiltrates into the ground or leaves the gardens in smaller amounts than if the area were only lawn.

Rain gardens can be beautiful and effective additions to parking areas or along sidewalks.



So if you would like to have a more attractive landscape at your home or business, consider a rain garden.