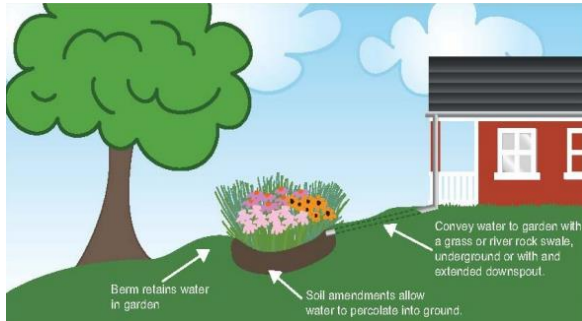


WHAT IS A RAIN GARDEN?



A rain garden is a planted depression that includes native plants. These gardens take advantage of rain and stormwater runoff to capture and infiltrate stormwater and the sediment and pollutants that come with it. Rain gardens allow for about a 30 percent higher infiltration rate than a regular lawn, helping to recharge local aquifers. Additionally, they are aesthetically pleasing and provide habitat for birds and insects.



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For more information, check out:

- <http://www.tcpwq.org/>
- http://www.tippeconow.com/opt_rain_garden.php
- <http://www.wabashriver.net/>



Rain Gardens

Manage the water on your land



Lafayette Renew

1700 Wabash Avenue
Lafayette, IN 47909
Tel: 765-807-1800



WHY SHOULD I CONSIDER INSTALLING A RAIN GARDEN?

Whenever it rains, do you ever find water puddling in your lawn or driveway? Do you want to help in reducing stormwater runoff and pollution of local waterways? Would you like to have a garden that does not require watering once the plants are well-established?

If you answered yes to one or more of those questions, installing a rain garden could be a great option for you.

By installing a rain garden, you can:

- ✓ Filter pollution from runoff
- ✓ Create habitats for birds and butterflies
- ✓ Remove standing water in your yard
- ✓ Improve the quality of waterways
- ✓ Boost sidewalk appeal
- ✓ Increase beneficial insects to remove pest insects



HOW MUCH DOES A RAIN GARDEN TYPICALLY COST?

Rain gardens do not need to be expensive. If done yourself, the cost is typically between \$2 and \$5 per square foot. Buying soil and mulch in bulk would help reduce costs, along with buying smaller plants. If you hire a landscape consultant to do all the work, the total cost would be between \$10 and \$20 per square foot.

WHAT WILL I NEED?

Tools:

- Tape measure
- Shovel
- Trowel
- Rake
- Carpenter's level
- Stakes/Marking flags
- String

Materials:

- Soil
- Mulch
- Native plants

Additional tools may be necessary depending on the size and location of your rain garden.



DOES A RAIN GARDEN REQUIRE MAINTENANCE?

While rain gardens do require some initial watering and weeding, once the plants are established after one to two growing seasons, maintenance is very minimal. Springtime is the best time to install a rain garden. It is a good idea to keep the garden weeded for the first couple of growing seasons. Otherwise, adding mulch and soil when necessary, adding new plants as needed and removing dead plants are the only real maintenance required to keep your rain garden working well and looking good.



HOW CAN I INSTALL A RAIN GARDEN?

For step-by-step instructions on installation, check out "A Rain Garden 'How To' Manual for Homeowners" at the following link:

<http://www.lafayette.in.gov/DocumentCenter/View/4333>