

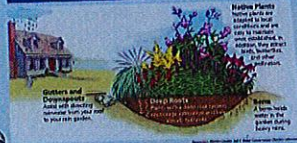
What Is a Rain Garden?

A rain garden is a shallow basin planted with native vegetation. The garden allows rainwater runoff from rooftops, parking lots, and compacted lawns to soak into the ground instead of flowing directly into storm drains. This decreases the amount of polluted water entering the storm drains, helping to keep nearby water sources clean.

Why Build a Rain Garden?

Rain gardens and other nature-based storm water solutions are beneficial because they prevent polluted water from entering local rivers and streams. During a rainstorm, water runs off the Huffnagle Park playground safety surface into the rain garden. The rain garden allows storm water to seep into the soil and replenish groundwater. Instead of flowing over the land where the water can pick up fertilizer, oil, road salt, and other pollutants from the lawn and parking lot.

How Does a Rain Garden Work?



Why Native Plants?

Native plants provide food and habitat for butterflies, bees, and birds. The plants are well-adapted to local weather and soil conditions so they will thrive on their own after the first few growing seasons.



Purple Coneflower
An excellent choice for the center of the rain garden because they prefer full sun and moist soil.



Blue Flag Iris
A hardy plant with long, narrow leaves and blue flowers. It is a good choice for the center of the rain garden.



Joe Pye Weed
The Joe Pye Weed is the best choice for the center of the rain garden because it is a hardy plant that attracts butterflies.

Keystone



Rain Garden Benefits:

- Clean water
- Groundwater recharge
- Flood control
- Water conservation
- Wildlife habitat creation

Impervious vs. Pervious Surfaces

Types of Impervious (Hard) Surfaces:

- Roofing Shingles
- Asphalt Parking Lots
- Concrete
- Brick
- Stone

Types of Pervious Surfaces:

- Gravel
- Mulch
- Untreated Wood
- Porous Concrete