

# garden

for rainwater absorption & filtration

## what is a rain garden?

Rain gardens are slightly recessed gardens designed to capture and temporarily hold rainwater flowing through your yard. Think of them as a sponge, absorbing rainwater with a modified soil bed. In addition to providing a place for rainwater to be used by plants, they slow down and lessen the amount of water that runs into creeks. Rain gardens also filter water, which is important because stormwater runoff can contain pollutants such as fertilizers, pet waste, road runoff and even atmospheric nitrogen from rain and roof runoff. While the rain garden is a bit more labor intensive than a rain barrel or a conservation planting, it provides the greatest number of benefits, when it comes to residential stormwater management.



## but what about...?

Common myths associated with rain gardens, dispelled!

### myth:

Rain gardens are weed patches.

### fact:

⇒ Rain gardens can and should be as attractive as any other garden space!

Rain gardens will breed mosquitoes.

⇒ Rain gardens will only be flooded for 1-2 days maximum after a rain event. Mosquitoes need 7 days to hatch eggs.

Rain gardens require more maintenance than other gardens.

⇒ Rain gardens require no more maintenance than other gardens and sometimes require less!

Rain gardens do not work in clay soils.

⇒ Rain gardens can work in any kind of soil because of the organic material that is added to the filter bed.

Rain gardens are comprised of water-loving plants.

⇒ Actually, plants in a rain garden must be able to thrive in dry periods and wet weather equally.

## How can I get one?

Unlike a rain barrel, you can't order a rain garden online. This set of factsheets will teach you to size, design, plant and construct your rain garden. We have taken out the complicated part and made it as simple as possible for you to have a beautiful rain garden in your own yard!

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NC WATER RESOURCES  
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rain gardens of all shapes, sizes and locations:

front yards & backyards:



parks & offices:



streetscapes & parking lots:

