

Rain Gardens

City of Peoria Public Works Department



WHAT IS A RAIN GARDEN?

Rain gardens are shallow depressions planted with perennial plants that are located in an area to collect rain water. Rain gardens can reduce flooding, absorb pollutants and sustain wildlife.



Rain gardens provide benefits to the environment over traditional turf grass lawns. Rain gardens reduce flooding, absorb pollutants, recharge the water table, and sustain wildlife. Rain gardens also beautify your property and your neighborhood. Any size rain garden, even small ones, make a difference.



The City of Peoria coordinated the design and construction of a native plant rain garden on public land near N Richard Allen Drive and N MacArthur Highway Ave in September 2012 with a grant from Illinois American Water.

CITY OF PEORIA PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

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WHERE TO PLANT A RAIN GARDEN?

- ◆ Rain gardens are easiest to construct in areas that naturally collect storm water runoff. During a rain storm observe where the water flows to determine where to build your rain garden.
- ◆ Good locations are at the end of downspouts or sump pumps or natural low areas.
- ◆ Rain gardens can have any size or shape.
- ◆ Locate the rain garden at least 10 feet away from and down slope of the building.



During a heavy rain, the rain garden may fill up and overflow. Make sure the overflow follows the original drainage of your lot.

Rain gardens will not promote breeding of mosquitoes if built properly. A rain garden should normally drain within 1-2 days. Mosquito larva must live in water for at least 7 days.

RAIN GARDENS

EXAMPLES OF NATIVE RAIN GARDEN PLANTS:

WHY SHOULD YOU PLANT A RAIN GARDEN?

Rain gardens and other native vegetation landscapes act as “mini wetlands” filtering pollutants out of our streams and rivers, recharging groundwater.



A typical rain garden is four to eight inches deep. You can use the soil removed when creating the depression to form a berm on the downslope end and sides to retain the storm water.

If soil removal and replacement is needed, a typical mixture would be 33% sand, 33% topsoil, and 33.4% compost or organic material.

Native plants have deep root systems that help break up the soil and promote infiltration which make them the best choice for rain gardens. Any type of perennials that can get their “feet” wet can be used.

HOW TO BUILD A RAIN GARDEN:

1. Dig a shallow depression approximately 4 –8 inches deep with a relatively level bottom.
2. Direct downspout, sump pump or runoff into the rain garden
3. Plant native plants recommended for central Illinois and rain garden use.
4. Add a few inches of shredded hardwood mulch. The mulch removes pollutants, discourages weed growth and prevents erosion.
5. Water your new plants for the first few weeks until they are established.



Native plants are low maintenance, but they do require some maintenance. Weeds need to be removed, especially in the first few year as the plants become established.

Keep an eye on your garden. If a plant isn't doing well, relocate it.

If the runoff is too strong, loss of mulch and small plants can occur. Strategically placed rocks or bricks can be used to reduce excess runoff velocities.



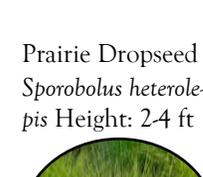
Little Blue Stem
Schizachyrium scoparium
Height: 2-3 ft



Black-Eyed Susan
Rudbeckia Speciosa or *Fulgida*
Height: 1-2 ft



New England Aster
Aster Novae-angliae
'Purple Dome'
Height: 1-2 ft



Prairie Dropseed
Sporobolus heterolepis
Height: 2-4 ft



Bergamot/Bee balm
Monarda fistulosa
Height: 2-4 ft



Butterfly weed
Asclepias tuberosa
Height: 1-3 ft



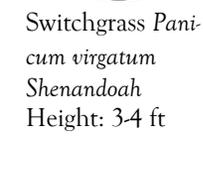
Switchgrass
Panicum virgatum
Shenandoah
Height: 3-4 ft



Prairie Blazingstar
Liatris Spicata
'Kobald'
Height: 2-4ft



Blueflag Iris
Iris versicolor
Height: 2 ft



Beardtongue
Penstemon digitalis
'Husker Red'
Height: 2-3 ft



False Sunflower
Heliopsis Helianthoides
Height: 2-5 ft



Purple Coneflower
Echinacea Purpurea
Height: 3 ft

