

What is a Rain Garden?

A rain garden is a type of Low Impact Development (LID) stormwater management Best Management Practice (BMP)

BMPs can be utilized in residential and commercial settings to reduce the need for stormwater transportation and treatment, reduce flooding and improve water quality!

Rain gardens capture & hold stormwater while it slowly infiltrates into the ground, reducing runoff, replenishing ground water supplies and reducing **nonpoint source pollution**, which provides clean water to local rivers, streams, wetlands, and lakes



A rain garden during construction in Wood River, Illinois (William Freeman)

An example of a rain garden in cross-section (AHBL Engineering)

A completed, vegetated rain garden (www.shawnature.org)

Rain gardens utilize naturally low areas on a property, and are made up of layers of infiltration material (such as gravel) and planted with native plants

Why native plants? Because they have deep root systems (helping stormwater to get into the ground - deep-rooted trees may even be used), can survive both drought and flooding conditions, and will not become invasive, taking over your yard

Infiltration is key! Rain gardens must be designed and constructed to infiltrate stormwater quickly to limit the time plants are in standing water

A roadside rain garden (www.carolstream.org)

The importance of native plants (Mid-America Regional Council)

A small rain garden during a storm (www.nativeplantsunlimited.org)

