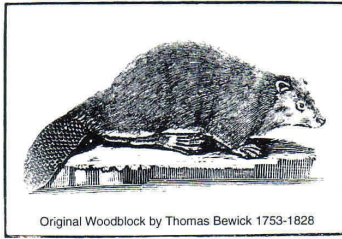


Little Beaver Creek



Land Foundation

Rain Gardens

Benefits of Rain Gardens

As more and more forest and agricultural land is urbanized, storm water runoff becomes a bigger problem. Rainwater runs off of impervious surfaces, such as asphalt and roofs, and can lead to flooding due to the inability of water to seep into the ground. Storm water runoff from developed areas is a compounded problem due to the fact that the water often contains pollutants from streets and parking lots. The water runs off of these hard, impervious surfaces and runs much faster than water running through vegetated areas, such as a forest or field, and can lead to excessive erosion, with sediment flowing into nearby rivers and streams along with the other pollutants the water picks up along the way. Rain gardens are designed to reduce the amount of storm water runoff that reaches the nearby body of water. There are several benefits of installing rain gardens; they allow more water to filter into the ground recharging the ground-water table, prohibit many urban storm water pollutants from entering nearby streams and lakes, diminish the probability of flooding, are aesthetically pleasing, will attract butterflies and birds if certain plants are put in, and require less maintenance than a lawn once established.



Maplewood, MN

from the Rain Garden Network

Rain Garden Design

A rain garden can be designed and planted with relative ease.

- Home rain gardens can be located either near the house to collect runoff from the roof or farther from the house to collect both roof and lawn runoff
 - Keep in mind however, that the garden should be at least 10 feet away from the foundation and never directly over a septic system
- Rain gardens should not be located in areas that naturally flood and in full to partial sun
- The location of the rain garden ought to be on a gentle slope, downhill from the impervious surface you want to catch water from, but should not have a slope over 12%
- Water can be directed by the natural slope in your yard, through the creation of berms, or with piping

The rain garden should be level, this will require digging and/or additional soil—also, a berm should be placed around the three edges that are above the slope of the ground

over

(this can be done with soil or impervious material)

- The soil in a rain garden should be between 4 to 8 inches deep, and the total area will depend on the amount of runoff that you hope to collect
- Use plants in your rain garden that are native to your area and do well in the allotted sunlight

Additional Information

www.ohioprairienursery.com/documents/neo_raingarden_manual1.pdf

www.healthylandscapes.org

www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/water/wm/dsfm/shore/documents/rgmanual.pdf

www.raingardens.org

www.raingardennetwork.com

<http://clean-water.uwex.edu/pubs/pdf/home.gardens.pdf>