

Engineering & Capital Projects Committee Memo

Date: May 2, 2011

To: Marshall Seeder, Committee Chair

From: Julia Cedillo, Interim Village Manager 

Re: **Resident Incentive Programs – Follow-up**

General Background

At the February and March meetings, the Committee discussed various community incentive programs designed to mitigate the effects of heavy rain to residential property in our community.

Three programs provided incentives for basement flooding and/or sewage back-up in the basement. One program provided an incentive for overland flooding. In greater detail we looked at three types of incentives:

- Incentives for check valves,
- Incentives for overhead sewers, and
- Incentives for land grading and drainage for overland flooding.

As the Committee discusses its options for providing incentives, it may wish to consider the following:

- **Is there funding?** Whether there is funding available within the Village budget to pay for residential incentives. If so, how much should the Village “carve out” for residential incentives? Note: There is a \$175,000 (\$25,000 in Engineering and \$150,000 in Capital Outlay) reserve or “ear mark” for any and all recommended projects from the Engineering and Capital Projects Committee in the FY 2012 Budget.
- **Can it be effective?** Whether the Village can design an incentive program that truly incentivizes preventative measures for areas in the Village that require mitigation measures. Can the Village identify “high risk” areas for which incentive programs are prescribed?
- **Is it fair?** Whether the incentive programs can be managed and provided in a fair manner. Incentive programs provide a valued benefit for private homeowners. So, the Village must be able to communicate to all residents that the incentive measures are worthwhile in addressing flooding impacts because certain areas are adversely impacted.
- **Are there unintended consequences?** Whether the incentive programs have unintended or negative consequences for other homeowners that do not participate.

The final item to consider is what programs would provide the greatest benefit to mitigate the impacts of flooding in the Village, making it a worthwhile Village investment. The Committee has already looked at three types of programs (listed above). Two types that have not yet been considered are rain gardens and rain barrels. Although these types of incentive programs are not as common in metropolitan Chicago, there

are communities in the United States that have incentivized these best management practices. Village Staff suggests that the Committee discuss the real benefits of rain gardens and rain barrels at the next meeting to determine if they mitigate the impacts of flooding.

Although rain barrels have limitations because each barrel has a set capacity, rain gardens may provide a greater measurable benefit if implemented in a manner where specifications are set by the Village and it is incentivized. It is conceivable that the Village could get strong participation throughout the community. It would be helpful to obtain additional information about the benefits of rain gardens from the Village Engineer to understand whether this is a viable solution for overland flooding, for capturing water from disconnected downspouts, and to keep water out of the combined sewer system.

For the Village to consider the effectiveness of rain gardens, the Village has two options for researching its benefits.

1. One local Boy Scout has proposed a rain garden project, to take place in a parkway where overland flooding is a problem. The Public Works Department will determine the location, size and specifications of the project, and the Boy Scout will organize the project, provide the labor and fund the project.
2. One resident located at the 900 block of Brainard has plans to add water loving plants or a rain garden to help her deal with overland flooding. She has asked for some assistance from the Village as to how to make her efforts most effective.

The Village is already participating with the Boy Scout project. However, the Village could take a larger role in monitoring the project on Brainard. Both projects together could provide data to help determine whether rain gardens provide a measurable benefit, and whether it would make sense to provide an incentive in an effort to increase the presence of rain gardens in identified areas throughout the community.

Documentation

- Examples of Rain Garden and Rain Barrel Incentive Programs



Anchorage Rain Garden Program: Final Report

Grant Agreement: Municipality of Anchorage & US Fish and Wildlife Service

Reporting Period: August 2007 – December 2011

Program Overview: The Anchorage Rain Garden Program improves environmental stewardship in the Municipality of Anchorage (MOA) through education and cost-sharing incentives for rain gardens. The program is run by the MOA and financially supported by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). Four years ago, the MOA partnered with FWS to design and construct the first full-sized rain garden in the municipality. Since then, the Rain Garden Program has supported the construction of over 50 rain gardens in the municipality on property ranging from schools to commercial, residential, and public properties.

Rain gardens are a form of Low-Impact Development (LID), which refers to stormwater management techniques that seek to mimic the natural water cycle in the vicinity of our built environment. By collecting stormwater runoff and allowing it to soak into the ground and be taken up by plants, rain gardens provide cleaner stormwater, healthier streams, decrease flooding, and lower the necessary maintenance on municipal storm drains. Other benefits come from the plants on the surface, including wildlife habitat, cleaner air, lower landscape maintenance, and improved aesthetics. A final benefit of installing a rain garden through the Anchorage Rain Garden Program is the cost-sharing incentive. The MOA reimburses construction costs for rain gardens at a rate of 50%, up to \$750 for residential rain gardens and up to \$5,000 for commercial and large-sized rain gardens.



Background: The need to manage stormwater in a built environment is driven not only by negative impacts from runoff in the community, like flooding and pollution, but also by regulations on stormwater standards designed to protect the environment. Typical stormwater infrastructure, like pipes and storm drains, are costly to install and maintain. All of these factors combine to make money spent on rain garden installation and education extremely cost-effective for cleaning and managing the stormwater. Developing the natural environment, clearing forests for houses and lawns or filling wetlands for parking lots, inadvertently changes the water cycle. Rain gardens and LID manage the additional stormwater burden from development in a cost-effective and environmentally beneficial manner.

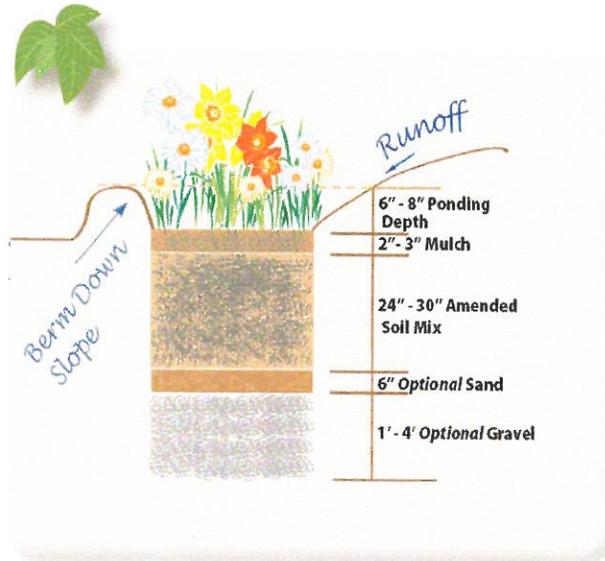
In order for stormwater to be clean, it has to be filtered, and nothing does this better than simply letting runoff filter through soil and be taken up by plants. Rain gardens are a man-made way to mimic this natural filtering process. The partnership between the MOA and FWS jointly recognizes the value of clean stormwater and community environmental stewardship. Through education and cost-sharing incentives, the Anchorage Rain Garden Program supports cleaner community stormwater, healthier creeks, and cheaper development.

Rain Garden Cross-Section:

A rain garden has four elements that make it different from a typical landscape garden:

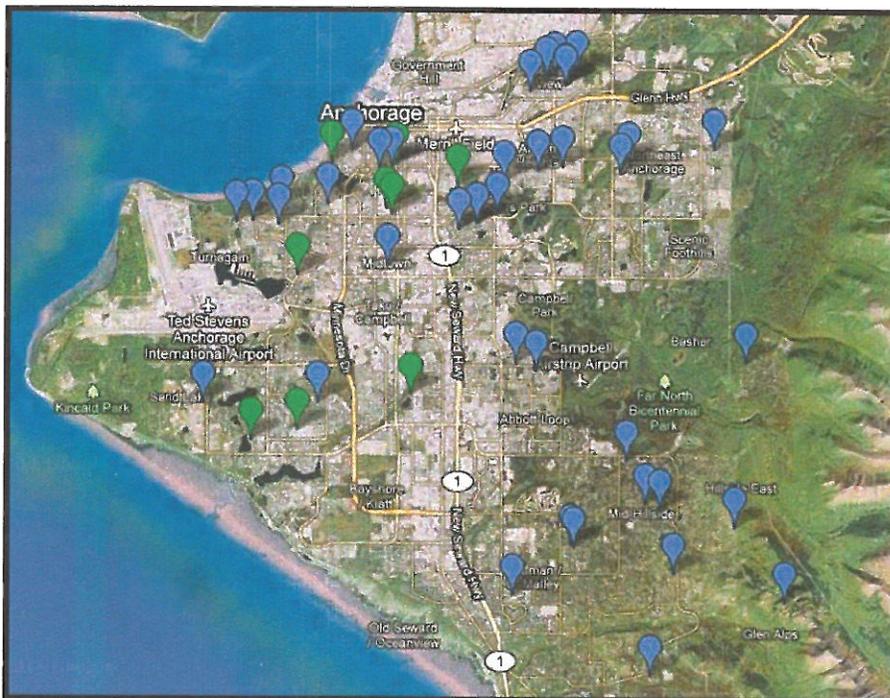
1. Location
2. Surface Contour
3. Soil Drainage
4. Native Plants

Stormwater runoff collects and ponds on the surface of a rain garden during a rainstorm. Over the following 24 hours, the water filters into the ground avoiding running off directly into the storm drain system, local stream, or lake.



Rain Garden Distribution:

Rain gardens have been installed across the MOA, including a handful of gardens in Eagle River and Chugiak, not shown. Because rain gardens are appropriate for any development, there is no limit to their distribution. Some things that may make a location less favorable for a rain garden are high water tables, poorly draining soils, or steep grades. Even with these limitations the program has been able to reach residents across the municipality.

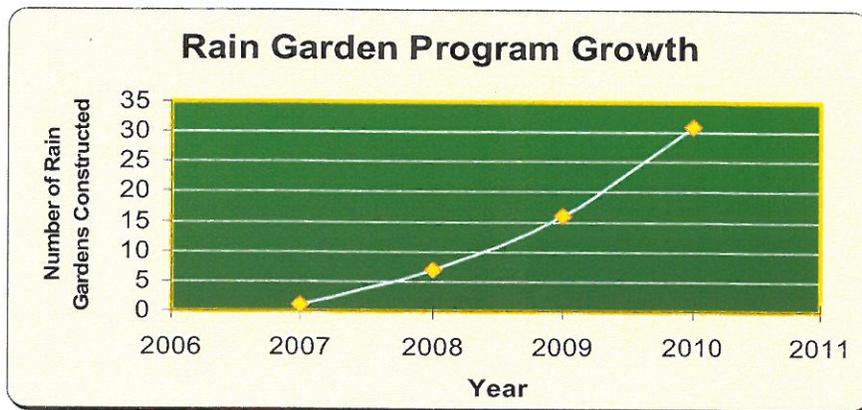


Even with these limitations the program has been able to reach residents across the municipality.

Legend:
 A blue marker indicates a private residential rain garden; a green marker indicates a public or demonstration rain garden – see list on final page.

Program Development:

The Anchorage Rain Garden Program has doubled in size each year since it began offering incentives in 2008. There have been 55 rain gardens constructed and supported by the program, including 11 demonstration rain gardens on school or public grounds, and 44 residential rain gardens on private property. In total, approximately 8,000 square feet of rain gardens have been installed, with the capacity to detain over 5,200 cubic feet of stormwater runoff during a single rain event. In addition to distributing reimbursements, the program has been training contractors and residents through a variety of presentations, school activities, and one-on-one consultations throughout the year.

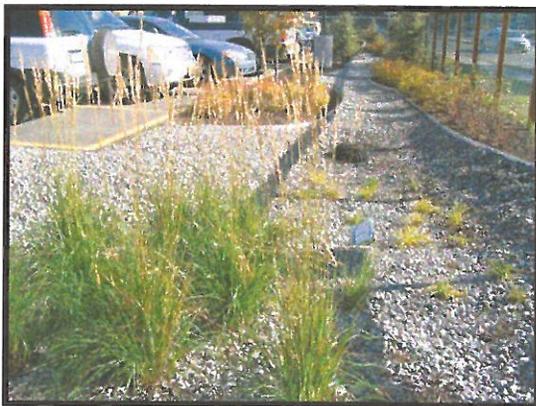


Website:

The program website, www.AnchorageRainGardens.com, teaches people about LID and how to build a rain garden. On the site there are grant applications available for residential and commercial reimbursements, a How-To Manual for Homeowners on rain garden construction, and a link to the LID Design Guidance Manual for engineers. The site also provides a list of contractors trained in rain garden construction and several pictures showing how to construct your own rain garden. Finally, there are maps for driving tours of demonstration rain gardens and LID sites in Anchorage.

Exemplary Rain Garden:

The Commercial Fishing and Agriculture Bank rain garden in Spenard treats parking lot runoff and enhances the urban environment. Through good site design and LID, this rain



garden transforms a traditional parking lot and required landscape element into a beneficial stormwater treatment device. The rain garden was designed by DOWL HKM and constructed by Green Earth Landworks in the fall of 2009. The owner was reimbursed to the maximum extent of \$5,000 for the commercial rain garden installation. After one full winter and growing season the garden remains in excellent condition.

Rain Gardens in the Municipality of Anchorage



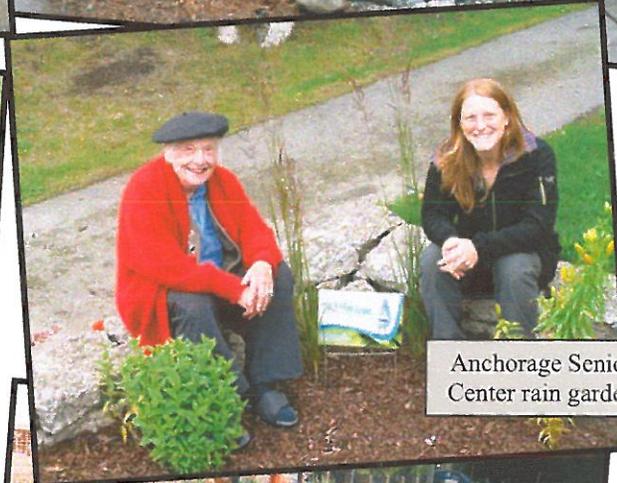
Blueberry Road, pedestrian improvement project



Residential rain garden filled with stormwater



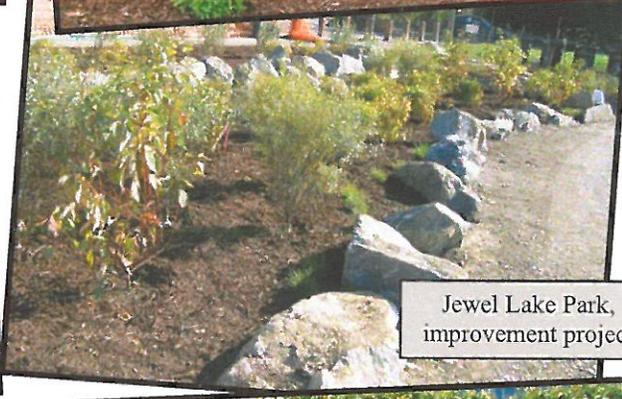
Residential rain garden under construction



Anchorage Senior Center rain garden



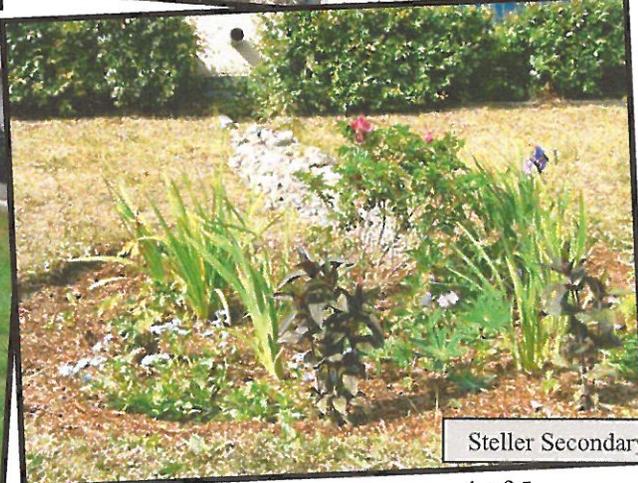
Taku Lake Park, pilot demonstration rain garden



Jewel Lake Park, improvement project

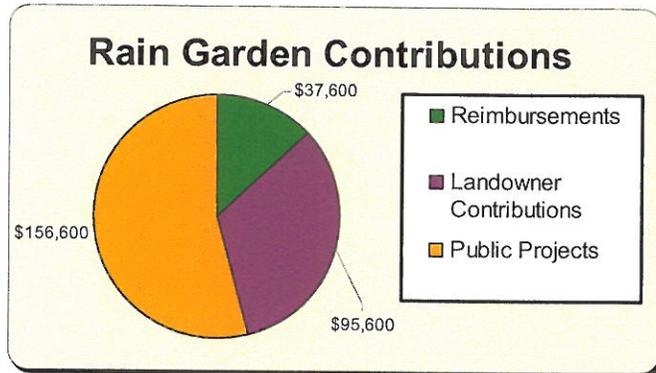


Residential rain garden in bloom



Steller Secondary

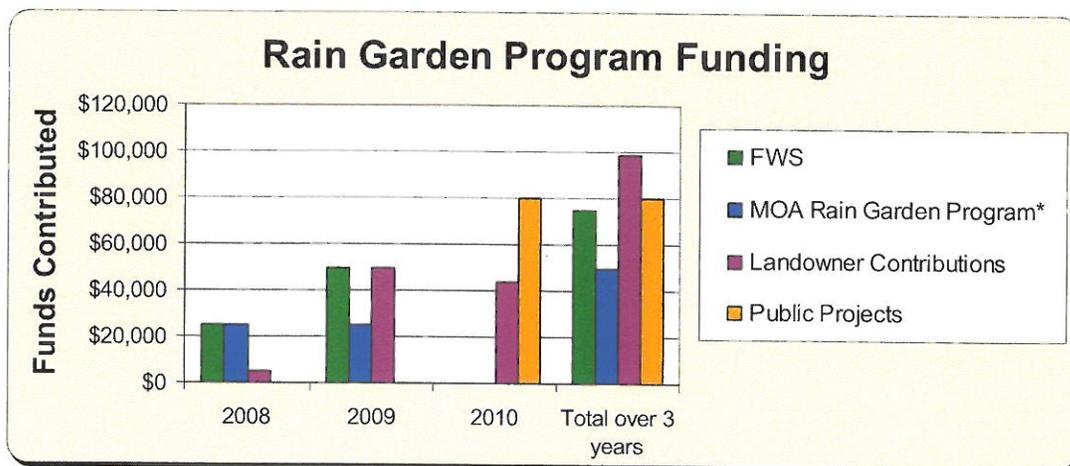
Incentives: The Anchorage Rain Garden Program has distributed approximately \$37,600 in incentives to residents and private businesses in the MOA. Incentives are offered in the form of a reimbursement to supplement the costs of a rain garden. As shown in the pie chart, landowners have matched the reimbursements from their own funds three times over. The generous landowner contribution portion of the pie indicates enthusiasm on the part of landowners and general success of the incentive program.



- School Projects:**
- ✚ Central Middle School
 - ✚ Dimond High School
 - ✚ Gruening Middle School
 - ✚ Mears Middle School
 - ✚ Steller Secondary

- Public Projects:**
- ✚ Taku Lake Park Pilot Rain Garden, Stormwater demonstration project
 - ✚ Blueberry Road, Pedestrian improvement project
 - ✚ Jewel Lake Park, Improvement project
 - ✚ Westchester Lagoon, Youth Employment in Parks project
 - ✚ Eagle River Commons Park, Stormwater improvement project
 - ✚ Anchorage Senior Center, Stormwater improvement and garden enhancement project

Grant Funding: This program is made possible by the MOA and grant funding from the FWS Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program. The graph below demonstrates program funding contributions; the MOA and FWS contributed in 2008 and 2009 for program development, new contributions for Public Projects began in 2010, and the Landowners contributed all three years. We are currently in the active period of a new 2010 LID agreement with FWS which will support the Rain Garden Program and the distribution of LID incentives through November 2012.



*MOA Rain Garden Program, in-kind contributions for program management are *not* incorporated.



Understanding Barriers and Incentives to Building Rain Gardens

By Rick Chenoweth, PhD

The heart of any social marketing campaign is recognizing that in order to design an effective program, you must have a good understanding of the audience whose behavior you wish to change. Most importantly, it is essential to know what the obstacles are that prevent people from engaging in the desired pro-environmental behavior. The Community-Based Social Marketing (CBSM) program is largely about devising ways to reduce those obstacles while demonstrating greater benefits for engaging in the desired behavior.

There is a temptation for natural resource professionals to assume they already understand why people act as they do. Thus, a critical roadblock in designing a social marketing program might be circumvented: understanding peoples' perceptions by asking them directly! In addition to focus groups and other mechanisms for eliciting responses, surveys can be an effective tool for understanding the target audience and finding out the beliefs and attitudes that influence the likelihood of adopting pro-environment behavior that professionals wish to promote.

Paul Dearlove, manager for the Lake Ripley Management Unit in south central Wisconsin, is collaborating with UW-Madison faculty and graduate students to plan a CBSM program to motivate landowners to build rain gardens on their properties. This initiative began as a graduate student

project in Professor Rick Chenoweth's course titled 'Human Behavior and Environmental Problems.' During the summer of 2007, UW-Extension Environmental Communication Specialist Bret Shaw, Professor Rick Chenoweth, and Gaylord Nelson Environmental Institute graduate student Paul Heilberger designed and administered a CBSM-based questionnaire to property owners within the Lake Ripley Management Unit boundaries. (To access the questionnaire online, visit the 'Resources' section of this newsletter). Here we briefly report on some preliminary results that we expect to be useful in the design of a CBSM program promoting the building of rain gardens by property owners.

The survey instrument was designed based on three components of the Theory of Planned Behavior (TPB), a theory which connects attitudes to behavior (see <http://people.umass.edu/aizen/tpb.html>):

- 1) what people believe would be the consequences to them personally were they to try to build a rain garden and how positively or negatively they evaluate those consequences,
- 2) what they believe significant others think they should do, and
- 3) the extent to which they believe they have the necessary resources to be able to build a rain garden.

Additional information was obtained that would permit the lake manager to segment

the audience to see if there were differences between important subgroups (e.g., year-round versus seasonal landowners).

Contrary to expectations, the survey found that most respondents already felt they had an understanding of rain gardens or that they could easily acquire information about them. These results suggest that a lack of knowledge about rain gardens is not a major barrier to a person's intention to build a rain garden in the next couple of years and that



Rain gardens help reduce surface runoff

illustration courtesy of USDA-NRCS

additional information is not required to induce people to build a rain garden on their property. Indeed, most respondents seemed to already have an understanding of the potentially important link between rain gardens and water quality.

One important barrier noted that might be a reason landowners do not build rain gardens is a preference to have a yard that is mostly lawn. For many, this appears to be both an aesthetic consideration and a cultural norm. Using computer-generated simulations of what a rain garden might look like on an individual's property could be an important

continued on page 4

INSIDE

- 2 **In the Field** – Programs across Wisconsin
- 3 **Person Profile** – Erin Henegar, *Clean Boats, Clean Waters*
- 4 **Resources** – Fostering behavior change
- 5 **Using Social Indicators to Reduce Nonpoint Source Pollution**
- 6 **Theory of Planned Behavior: Linking Attitudes to Behavior Change**
- 7 **Changing Public Behavior Initiative Offers New Resources for Water Outreach Programs**
- 8 **How Do You Choose a Target Behavior for a CBSM Program?**

About this Newsletter

Environmental Communication and Social Marketing provides a forum for communication between professionals in the social and natural sciences who share a common interest in promoting behaviors that will positively impact the environment. The newsletter is multidisciplinary in nature, emphasizing theoretically-informed, evidence-based approaches to behavioral change.

UW
Extension
Environmental Resources Center

Understanding Barriers and Incentives to Building Rain Gardens

continued from page 1

tool for overcoming this barrier. As more rain gardens appear in a neighborhood over time, one might expect a shift in the norms for the acceptability of rain gardens on private residential property.

Respondents were asked to rate the extent to which six different potential obstacles would be important deterrents in building a rain garden where 1 = not at all and 6 = very much. Four of these deterrents were seen as real obstacles: cost and expense, having insufficient time, believing it would be too much work, and not having the requisite knowledge. However, none of these received a mean score of over 3.75, implying that a well-designed CBSM program can overcome these obstacles.

One of the strongest single predictors of an individual's intention to build a rain garden on their property in the next couple of years is the availability of cost sharing. It will be important for the Lake Ripley Management Unit to devise ways in which incentives, in the form of cost sharing, might occur to encourage landowners to build a rain garden on their property. Discounts from nurseries with native plants might be one way to create some cost sharing in a way that benefits both the nursery and the landowner.

Preliminary analysis of the survey data revealed that the Theory of Planned Behavior did a good job predicting whether respondents intended to install a rain garden in the near future. The strongest predictor of behavioral intent was beliefs about what would be the outcomes of building a rain garden on their property, including whether installing rain gardens would improve water quality, whether it would enhance wildlife habitat or increase property value, together with the degree to which they positively valued these possible outcomes. Those who believed these outcomes were likely to occur if they built a rain garden and valued these outcomes very positively were more likely to express an intention to build a rain garden on their property. This finding suggests that in addition to cost-sharing incentives, a successful CBSM campaign should emphasize these particular outcomes when designing communications promoting the building of rain gardens.

Another significant predictor of behavioral intent was the degree to which respondents' believed significant others, such as friends, family and neighbors, would look favorably toward them installing a rain garden. Most respondents cared about what these reference groups thought. This finding suggests that a social marketing campaign aimed at building social norms among friends, families and neighbors might be an important addition to the kinds of persuasive communications typically designed for individual consumption. It also may make sense to promote "community days" in which neighbors, friends and family are recruited to be a part of fun events that focus on installing rain gardens for property owners in the Lake Ripley watershed.

The Lake Ripley survey is different from many environmentally-oriented questionnaires that query people about what they know about something or how favorably or unfavorably they regard that something. By contrast, the Lake Ripley survey is based on the components of the Theory of Planned Behavior. Thus, it includes measures of what people think would be the consequences to themselves if they were to install a rain garden, together with how favorably or unfavorably they regard those consequences. By using these kinds of items, it is possible to identify the major perceived obstacles that would prevent residents of the Lake Ripley watershed from installing a rain garden on their property. The design of the CBSM campaign will rely heavily on this understanding; the selection and application of CBSM tools will be tailored to overcome the specific perceived obstacles uncovered by the Lake Ripley survey. ♻️

Home

Rain Garden 101

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Incentive Program

Rain Gardens for Businesses

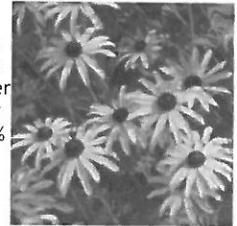
Register Your Rain Garden

Resources



What is a rain garden?

A rain garden is a landscaped area planted with native plants and flowers that soaks up rainwater. The garden fills with a few inches of rain water that come off of the roof of a house or building during a storm. After the storm, the water slowly soaks into the ground instead of running off the land into a storm sewer or waterway. Compared with a grassed lawn area, a rain garden may allow 30% more water to be absorbed. Native plants are suggested for use in the rain garden because of their deep roots, water uptake and their ability to tolerate conditions ranging from wet to dry and hot to freezing.



Event Calendar

May 2011						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

A Rain Garden How To Manual for Fort Wayne Homeowners

As part of the rain garden program, Fort Wayne has developed a reference manual that explains how to plan, plant and maintain a rain garden in northeastern Indiana. The manual is the basis for Fort Wayne's rain garden workshops. You can read the manual on line or you may request a copy on CD by calling 427-1381 or e-mailing catchingrain@ci.ft-wayne.in.us.

search...

Home

Rain Garden 101

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

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Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

-Is a rain garden a pond?

- Rain gardens are not ponds. When properly designed, a rain garden should only hold water for about 24 hours.

-Will a rain garden be a breeding ground for mosquitoes?

- No! Properly designed rain gardens are, in fact, mosquito death traps because the water soaks into the ground within a day or so. The mosquito life cycle takes place in standing water and lasts seven to 12 days. Mosquitoes lay eggs in standing water. The eggs hatch into larva and then grow into flying insects. If a mosquito lays its eggs in a rain garden with standing water and the water soaks into the ground, the eggs won't have an opportunity to develop and will die.

-Are rain gardens hard to maintain?

- The benefit of using native plants in a rain garden is that they are well adapted to their natural surroundings and do not require a lot of maintenance, fertilizers or pesticides. The bulk of rain garden maintenance involves periodic watering and weeding.

-Will I need to water my rain garden?

- You will need to water the rain garden during the first one or two growing seasons until the plants become established. About an inch of water a week is a good rule of thumb. In later years, the garden will only need to be watered during prolonged dry periods.

-Are rain gardens expensive to build?

- Rain gardens do not have to be expensive. If you build the rain garden yourself, the main cost is typically the plants and mulch. Choosing smaller plants -- called plugs -- and buying plants and mulch in bulk can help reduce the cost. In 2009 dollars, an average rain garden will cost about \$2 to \$5 per square foot if you do the work yourself. If you hire a landscaper to design and construct the garden and install the plants, the cost could be \$12 to \$15 per square foot.

-Will a rain garden cause water to seep into my basement?

- Wet basements are commonly caused by improper grading and drainage around a house foundation. For example, a downspout may empty right onto the ground next to the house or the surface of the yard may slope toward the house. A rain garden can be used to direct water away from the house foundation by routing downspouts toward the garden instead of letting them discharge near the house foundation.

Event Calendar

May 2011						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

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Fort Wayne Residential Rain Garden Incentive Program



Guidelines and Application 2011

The City of Fort Wayne has developed an incentive program to encourage property owners to install and maintain rain gardens on their property. A rain garden is a landscaped area that collects rain water during a storm and helps the water soak into the ground rather than running off into a storm or combined sewer.

The City of Fort Wayne is providing incentives to property owners who install and maintain rain gardens. A direct cash payment and a plant matching program are available. Incentives can only be given to properties that are located inside the City limits. In order to be eligible for the incentive program, residential property owners are required to complete each of the following steps:

1. Complete this Rain Garden Program Application and submit it to the City of Fort Wayne, using the address and contact information shown on page two of this form.
2. Attend one of the rain garden instructional workshops offered by the City of Fort Wayne. Dates and locations for the workshops may be found on the Fort Wayne rain garden website at www.catchingrainfw.org. It is mandatory that you sign in at the workshop in order to qualify for the incentive program. Workshops are provided at no cost, but we ask that you register in advance by calling 260- 427- 1381.
3. You may request and receive technical assistance to help you locate a rain garden on your property and select the appropriate plants for the chosen rain garden location. City of Fort Wayne staff members or volunteers will meet with you at your home. You will also receive advice on routing storm water to your rain garden as well as advice on garden and plant maintenance.
4. Sign a Homeowner Rain Garden Agreement and return it to the City of Fort Wayne at the address shown on the agreement form. These agreement forms will be provided at the rain garden workshops and by individuals providing technical assistance. The agreement form will ask you to indicate if you will be using one of the rain garden designs provided by the City of Fort Wayne. If you are not using a City of Fort Wayne design, you will need to provide a copy of the layout that you will be using (including a plant list) along with a completed and signed agreement form.
5. Register your rain garden by going to the City of Fort Wayne's rain garden website at www.catchingrainfw.org. It is important to register your rain garden so that the City of Fort Wayne's Neighborhood Code Department will be aware that you have a rain garden on your property. If you do not have access to the internet, please request a Rain Garden Registration Form by calling the City of Fort Wayne at 260- 427- 1381. You may register your rain garden by completing the registration form and mailing it to the address shown.
6. If you choose to receive the City's incentive in the form of discounted plants, you must buy plants at a participating nursery that is part of the City of Fort Wayne's Plant Matching Program. A list of the participating nurseries may be found at www.catchingrainfw.org or may be requested by calling the City of Fort Wayne at 260- 427- 1381. You will receive a certificate for a 50% discount on the plants needed for the rain garden. The value of the discount provided by the City shall not exceed \$250.00. Plants purchased through the discount program must be plants listed on the City of Fort Wayne's rain garden plant list. Trees and shrubs may not be purchased using the discount certificate. The plant list may be found on the City's rain garden web site or in the Rain Garden How To Manual for City of Fort Wayne Homeowners.
7. If you elect a direct cash payment as your incentive (rather than a plant discount), you must select this option when you attend a rain garden workshop. Cash incentives will be paid by the City of Fort Wayne at a rate of \$1.00 per square foot of rain garden installed. The cash payment will not exceed \$150.00. Property owners seeking the cash match must file a W- 9 form with the City of Fort Wayne. The cash payment will be mailed to the property owner by the City after all of the qualifying activities have been completed.

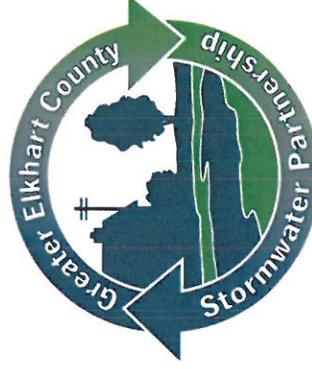
Reminder: You must register for one of the workshops by calling 260- 427- 1381.

Websites about Rain Gardens & Rain Barrels

- Wisconsin DNR Rain Garden Websites — www.dnr.state.wi.us/runoff/rg/links.htm
- The Right Size for a Rain Garden (Kids) — www.kidsgardening.com/Dig/digdetail.taf?Type=Art&id=2142
- Rain Garden Network — www.raingardennetwork.com
- Rain Barrel Guide — www.rainbarrelguide.com
- Indiana Association of SWCDs — www.iaswcd.org/district_tools/pwq/rainbarrels.html

A 2004 study showed a 93 % reduction in stormwater volume after 17 rain gardens were installed in a subdivision in Minnesota. This shows that rain gardens are an easy and inexpensive way of reducing runoff and improving stormwater quality. (Burnsville Rainwater Gardens Study - http://www.barr.com/PDFs/Papers/Burnsville_results_flyer.pdf)

Rain Garden & Rain Barrel Incentive Program



The Greater Elkhart County
Stormwater Partnership

17746-B County Road 34
Goshen, IN 46528
Phone: 574-533-3630 ext. 3
Fax: 574-533-4620
Email: eric.kurtz@in.nacdn.net
www.stormwaterelkco.org



A recently planted rain garden collecting rain water from a barn roof.

The Greater
Elkhart
County
Stormwater
Partnership



**Our Goal:
Clean Water**

www.stormwaterelkco.org

The Stormwater Partnership can Help Pay for Rain Gardens and Rain Barrels

The Greater Elkhart County Stormwater Partnership will help homeowners install rain gardens and rain barrels in most of Elkhart County. For homeowners that qualify, the program can reimburse:

- up to \$250 for rain garden plants
- up to \$50 per rain barrel (max two rain barrels per residential property)

This incentive program is being funded in 2011 for the second year. The program comes as a result of stakeholder input into the Partnership's stormwater fee. The program's first year generated a lot of excitement. Seven rain gardens and 85 rain barrels were installed.



The program is open to anyone in Elkhart, Goshen, Bristol, or unincorporated areas of Elkhart County. These are the areas where residents pay a stormwater fee to fund the Partnership programs.



A rain garden at the Elkhart Environmental Center one year after being planted.

To take advantage of the program, the first step is to apply. The application is available at the Elkhart County SWCD office or at www.stormwaterelkco.org on the "For Homeowners" link. Approval will be given on a first-come, first-served basis while funds last.

In order to qualify for reimbursement, applicants must also attend a Partnership-sponsored workshop on the practice they wish to install. Please contact us to find out the date, time, and location of the next workshop.

Rain barrel applicants who have attended a workshop and submitted an application will need to submit receipts for reimbursement. Those wishing to install rain gardens have an extra step – a Partnership staff member must visit their site and approve their rain garden plans before they move ahead with installation.

Any practice funded must be maintained for five years.

Here's what participants in the 2010 Incentive Program had to say:

- "Thank you for this opportunity that assisted us in 'going green'."
- "We are very grateful for our rain garden and rain barrel. We feel that they have added value to our home and environment."
- "We liked that the program had the educational workshop, and an informational brochure to take home for reference."
- "I had been thinking about getting rain barrels for a while, but the cost seemed prohibitive. When I learned that I could get barrels and be reimbursed, I jumped at the opportunity."
- "What I was not prepared for was the amount of water that actually comes off of a roof. I now understand the concern regarding water runoff into the sewer systems."
- "I only have good things to say about the program. This informed me on everything I needed to get my rain barrel set up. I have recommended this to many friends."
- "The rain barrel has almost completely eliminated our need for our water spigot!"

The Greater Elkhart County
Stormwater Partnership

17746-B County Road 34
Goshen, IN 46528
Phone: 574-533-3630 ext. 3
FAX: 574-533-4620
Email: eric.kurtz@in.nacdn.net
www.stormwaterelkco.org



Homeowners and Stormwater - Further Reading

Rain Garden and Rain Barrel Incentive Program

The Greater Elkhart County Stormwater Partnership will help homeowners install rain gardens and rain barrels in most of Elkhart County. For homeowners who qualify, the program can reimburse up to \$250 for rain garden plants and up to \$50 per rain barrel



Rain Barrel

(maximum two rain barrels per parcel).

This incentive program is being funded in 2011 for the second year. The program comes as a result of stakeholder input into the Partnership's stormwater fee. The program's first year generated a lot of excitement. Seven rain gardens and 85 rain barrels were installed.

The program is open to anyone in Elkhart, Goshen, Bristol, or unincorporated areas of Elkhart County. These are the areas where residents pay a stormwater fee to fund the Partnership's programs.

To take advantage of the program, the first step is to apply. The application is available at the Elkhart County SWCD office or at the links below. Approval will be given on a first-come, first-served basis while funds last.

In order to qualify for reimbursement, applicants must also attend a workshop on the practice they wish to install. Upcoming workshops will take place on the following dates:

- **Tuesday, March 15, 2011, 6:30-8:30 pm**
at Willowdale Park Pavilion in Elkhart.
- **Thursday, March 24, 2011, 6:30-8:30 pm**
at Schrock Pavilion, Shanklin Park in Goshen.



EEC Rain Garden

Rain barrel applicants who have been pre-approved and attended the workshop

should submit receipts and a photo of the installed practice for reimbursement by April 30, 2011. After that date, reimbursements will take place in the order they are received while funds last.

Those wishing to install rain gardens have an extra step - a Partnership staff member must visit their site and approve their rain garden plans before they move ahead with installation. All funded practices must be maintained for five years.

Rain gardens and rain barrels have received a lot of attention recently, and we hope that this new program will help them become even more widespread in Elkhart County.

Application Forms and Brochure

Incentive Program Brochure: Find more information about the incentive program.

Rain Garden Application Form: Complete and submit this form if you are interested in installing rain gardens at your home.

Rain Barrel Application Form: Complete and submit this form if you are interested in installing rain barrels at your home.