

## Benefits of Rain Gardens

Rain gardens are an inexpensive, simple to implement solution to urban stormwater runoff.

A rain garden will:

- \* Filter runoff pollution
- \* Recharge local groundwater
- \* Conserve water
- \* Improve water quality
- \* Protect rivers and streams
- \* Remove standing water in your yard
- \* Reduce mosquito breeding
- \* Increase beneficial insects that eliminate pest insects
- \* Reduce potential of home flooding
- \* Create habitat for birds and butterflies
- \* Enhance sidewalk appeal

## Challenges of Implementation

- \* Costs vary considerably depending on size, location, and installation procedure
- \* Urban residents have limited lawn sizes
- \* Plant selection based on homeowner needs
- \* Perceived high costs and time investment

Square Foot Rain Gardens not in the cards for your property? Here is a link to other options to help reduce urban stormwater runoff:

<http://www.raingardennetwork.com/alternatives.htm>

Concept design created by Matthew Bell and Jacob Bannister

# Square Foot Rain Gardens



# RAIN GARDENS MADE EASY!

## Supplies:

(2) 2x6x8' untreated lumber .....	\$4.85/each
3 cubic feet peat moss.....	\$9.97/bag
(3) 40 lb. bag of topsoil.....	\$1.49/bag
1 cubic foot of garden soil.....	\$3.97/bag
(12) 3" screws.....	\$1.00
2 cubic feet mulch.....	\$2.97/bag
Roll of garden fabric.....	\$9.97/roll
Gutter extension.....	\$15.00
<b>Total Cost for supplies.....</b>	<b>\$58.00</b>

## Plant options suitable for smaller area gardens:

### Grasses:

Meadow Sedge  
Tufted Hair Grass  
Little Blue Stem  
Prairie Dropseed

### Forbs (flowering plants):

Heath Aster  
Bottle Gentian  
Blue Flag Iris  
Great Blue Lobelia  
Obedient Plant  
Mountain Mint  
Showy Black-Eyed Susan  
Golden Alexanders

Plant plugs may be purchased for around \$2 a piece, depending on size and supplier. Approximately 40-50 plugs will be needed to fill the 4'x4' design. More plants may be installed for a more dense garden, or fewer larger plants may be used.

**Cost for plant material.....\$80-\$100**

Finding the space needed to create a rain garden in an urban setting can be difficult. Cost approximations for rain garden installation can also vary considerably depending on size, location, and the amount of work needed for installation.

To address these urban hurdles, we have combined the concepts of rain gardens with square foot gardening to offer an urban solution with a standard size and cost.

Cost estimates are based on a standard 4'x4' design.

Using this design and estimate as a baseline, homeowners may use a variety of materials to create their own square foot rain garden to fit their individual tastes and needs.

## Maintenance:

Rain gardens are relatively low maintenance once installed. Regular weeding during the first couple of years will allow desirable plants to get established and out-compete future weeds. Remove dead growth at the start of each season and cut back plants as new growth begins. A string trimmer may be used for quick spring cleanup.

## 4 Tips for a Successful Rain Garden:

1. **Do the Research and Plan:** A successful rain garden takes careful thought and planning
2. **Location Does Matter:** make sure your garden is at least 10 feet from the foundation of your house.
3. **Work With Your Soil:** Amend soil to balance drainage and retention
4. **Choose Plants Carefully:** Choose plants tolerant of both temporary flooding and drought.

