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
Rain Gardens made Easy!

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.