

## COLOR YOUR LANDSCAPE AND CAPTURE THE RAIN

You can help your community meet its clean water goals by creating a rain garden on your property.

If you are interested in capturing and treating storm water on your property in a creative fashion, using your own personal flair, contact your local Soil & Water Conservation District for more information. Copies of the *Rain Garden Manual for Homeowners* can be downloaded from:

[www.cuyahogawcd.org](http://www.cuyahogawcd.org)

OR

[www.franklinswcd.org](http://www.franklinswcd.org)

Once you get started, let us know how your project unfolds. Send your before and after pictures to us so we can post the photos on our website.



The Manual is a cooperative effort of the Northeast

Ohio Public Involvement Public Education Committee (NEO PIPE). The manual was edited by staff from several organizations with technical support from the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS-USDA). It was printed with funding from the U.S. EPA Great Lakes National Program Office.



An Equal Opportunity  
Employer and Provider

## RAIN GARDENS for HOMEOWNERS

Protecting our water,  
one yard at a time



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A collaborative effort of Cuyahoga and Franklin  
Soil and Water Conservation Districts  
and the NEO PIPE Work Group.

## PROTECTING WATERSHEDS ONE YARD AT A TIME



### What is a Rain Garden?

A rain garden is an attractive landscaped area planted with perennial native plants which don't mind getting "wet feet". Built in a bowl shape, a rain garden is designed to increase infiltration allowing rain and snowmelt to seep naturally into the ground. Benefits of rain gardens are multiple: they recharge groundwater supply, prevent water quality problems, provide habitat for birds and butterflies, and are great looking landscapes features.

Recent studies have shown that up to 70% of the pollution in our streams, rivers and lakes is carried there by run-off from practices we carry out in our own yards and gardens. Some of the common "non-point source pollutants" from our yards that end up in our local waterways include soil, fertilizers, pesticides, pet wastes, grass clippings and other yard debris.

*Planting rain gardens is an effective way to help our communities "bloom", as we work to protect the health of our watersheds.*

## How to be a good citizen in our watershed community:

Everyone lives in a watershed. You, as well as everyone in your watershed, are part of the watershed community. Animals, birds, and fish are part of it, too. You influence the health of your watershed, good or bad, by how you treat its natural resources--the soil, water, air, plants, and animals. You can help maintain the health of our watershed by installing a rain garden on your own property.

Planting a rain garden may seem like a small thing, but if you calculate the amount of rain that runs off your property, you might be surprised. Every drop counts! Rain gardens capture rain that usually runs off your property and allows it time to soak into the ground. This helps minimize run-off and helps reduce the amount of non-point source pollution that enters our waterways.

Keeping rain where it falls, by directing it to a rain garden, is a natural solution to water pollution. You not only get a lovely garden, but **you** have also helped protect our rivers, streams and lakes from pollution.



## RAIN GARDEN MANUAL FOR HOMEOWNERS

The Manual is a technical guide for those who are really interested in taking the steps to implement a rain garden. Topics discussed in the manual include: Placing and Sizing Your Rain Garden, Determining the Depth and Drainage Area of Your Garden, and Suggested Plant List for Your Rain Garden. Other technical topics explained include soil type, slope consideration and garden shape. After planning the rain garden, the manual outlines instructions for site preparation, digging, and planting native species. Short and long term maintenance suggestions are also provided.

