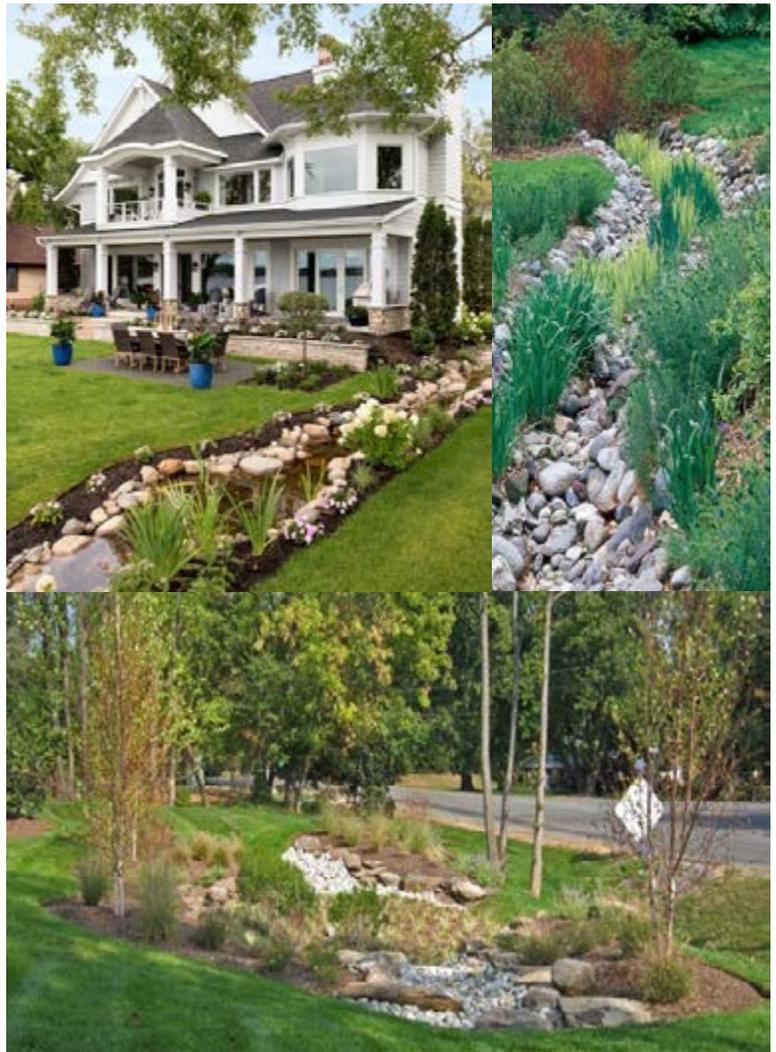


# Rain Garden Drainage Basins

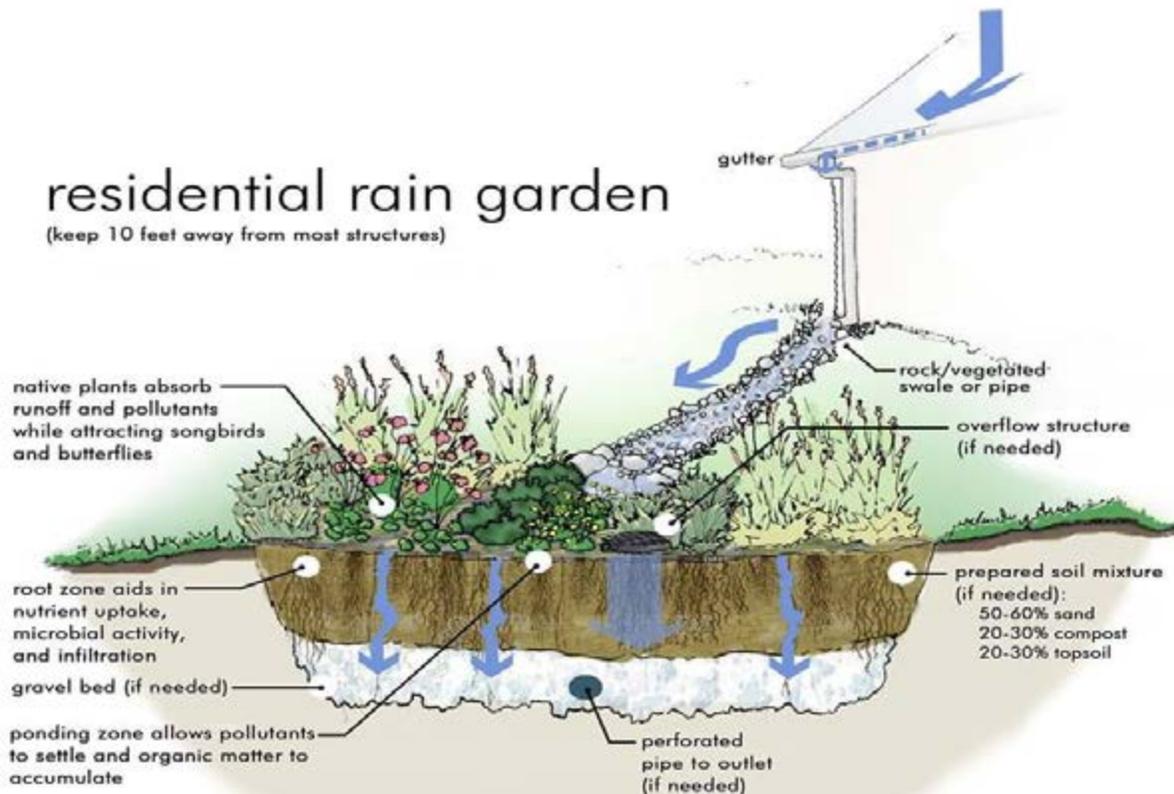
A rain garden is a shallow planted depression designed to hold water until it soaks into the soil. A key feature of eco-friendly landscape design, rain gardens—also known as bio-infiltration basins—are an important solution to stormwater runoff and pollution.

They are designed with native plants to be both functional as well as aesthetically pleasing in a variety of landscape styles. However they look, rain gardens work. They help to reduce storm-water waste by 99 percent, according to one study, and keep runoff clean. They can also be an integrated design element, making landscapes both sustainable and beautiful.



## residential rain garden

(keep 10 feet away from most structures)



# Rain Garden Plants

## Shrubs

Virginia Sweetspire (*Itea virginica*) flowers from May to June, providing nectar for early butterflies. In a massed planting, this can be a great landscaping shrub and boasts pretty fall color. 3-8 feet; blooms best with full sun at least part of the day.

Redosier Dogwood (*Cornus sericea*) is a American shrub that grows about 6 to 8 feet tall. Its bright red twigs are attractive in winter. Several varieties are available. 'Isanti' and 'Kelsey' are compact, red-stemmed shrubs. 'Flaviramea' has yellow stems.

Common Winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*) is a deciduous holly. The deep green leaves drop off in the fall revealing bright red fruit. The shrub attains a height of 6 to 10 feet. Hollies are dioecious; male and female plants are required for fruit set. The shrub produces abundant bright red berries.

American Elder (*Sambucus canadensis*) is a native suckering shrub that produces large clusters of purple-black fruit in late summer. The ripened fruit are good for jellies, preserves and wines. The fruit are also attractive to birds. Its mature height is 6 to 10 feet. Varietals have have traditional, yellow green or wine colored foliage.

Inkberry Holly (*Ilex Glabra*) is a great native alternative for boxwoods. They look great in foundation plantings for clients who want more of a traditional looking landscape utilizing native plants. They also work well in rain gardens and birds love them. The more compact varieties have more filled in foliage. 3-8 feet high.

## Trees

River Birch (*Betula nigra*) tolerates heat and drought better than the white-barked birches. Also resistant to the bronze birch borer. The exfoliating bark varies from gray-brown to reddish brown. Often planted as a multi-stemmed specimen or "clump." The river birch grows 50 to 60 feet tall.

Serviceberries (*Amelanchier* spp.) are large, multi-stemmed shrubs or small trees. Several species and numerous varieties are available. Serviceberries are noted for their white flowers in the spring, edible fruit, and fall leaf color which varies from yellow to red. Their mature height varies from 10 to 25 feet.

Bald Cypress (*Taxodium distichum*) is a deciduous conifer. Native to swamps in the southeastern United States, it does surprisingly well in the north. The foliage is an attractive yellow-green in the spring and turns to russet in the fall. The bald cypress has a pyramidal growth habit and may eventually reach a height of 50 feet.

Dawn Redwood (*Metasequoia glyptostroboides* 'Urban Spire') Upright and quick growing, it is a true spire and will fit well into smaller, urban spaces and even small home gardens. A fantastic tree for properties with poorly drained, new construction soil, or spots where the soil can be wet in the spring and then extremely dry in the summer. Fall color is the color of the dawn sky before its needles fall. 18-20' tall by 8-11' wide

