RAIN GARDEN TIPS

Installation of rain garden is best accomplished in spring or fall.

Call 811 before digging to locate underground utilities.

If you have a septic tank, do not place over leach field or tank area.

A rain garden should be at least 10 feet from the house foundation.

A rain garden is not a pond or wetland; it should not hold water for more than 24 hours.

Choose native plants which require less maintenance as they are adapted to the habitat.

Avoid disturbing tree roots.

NATIVE PLANTS

Black eyed Susans
Blue eyed Grass
Bee balm
Yarrow
Joe Pye Weed
Columbine
Golden Rod
Coneflower
Cardinal Flower
Sea Oats
Sweetflag
Virginia Sweetspire
Inkberry
Silky Dogwood
Redbud
Birch
Silver Maple
Arrowwood
Ironweed
Cinnamon Fern
Tussock Sedge
Spicebush
Wild Rye
Sensitive Fern

Huntington Stormwater Utility
P.O. Box 7578, Huntington WV
304-781-1948

Create Your Own Rain Garden

Recycle the Rain

WHAT IS A RAIN GARDEN

A rain garden is a shallow depression filled with a special soil mix and plants, designed to collect and filter water that flows off hard surfaces like roofs and driveways.

A rain garden slows down the flow to allow absorption by the plants and soils.

WHAT DOES A RAIN GARDEN DO

Helps to clean water clean by filtering out pollutants.
Enhances the beauty of your yard.
Reduces the volume of runoff entering your gutters or storm sewers.
Creates habitat and food for pollinators (bees, and butterflies).

HOW TO CREATE A RAIN GARDEN

Dig out area (4- 6 inches deep) chosen for rain garden. It can be any shape but must have level bottom.
Clay soils should be replaced with a mix (50- 60% sand, 20-30% topsoil, 20-30% compost). The idea is to allow water to infiltrate into the underlying soils.

Plant native grasses, flowers, ferns, bushes into rain garden.
Create berm by using soil, rocks, or garden edging.

Add 2-3 inches of mulch to the top surface.
Water plants for first few weeks to help them establish.

HOW TO DIRECT ROOF WATER TO A RAIN GARDEN

Position rain garden downhill from downspout.
Gutter extensions or a rock lined swale can be installed to direct rainwater into the garden.
Splash block or rocks can be added to slow down the flow of water and help to prevent erosion.

RAIN GARDEN MAINTENANCE

Replace plants if they die.
Add rock to inflow area to prevent erosion.
Remove weeds.
Top dress with 2-3 inches of mulch.
Water newly added plants to ensure survival.