

## **Rain Gardens and Rainscape Rebates through Deer Creek Alliance**

Do you have a spot in your yard that tends to collect water? Do your downspouts run off into your yard? If so, perhaps you could build a rain garden to capture some of that rainwater.

Keeping the water on your property when it rains reduces the amount of water entering the sewer system, not to mention creating a beautiful, low-maintenance addition to your lawn. In part of the combined sewer area, this helps to prevent basement backups and sewer overflows, and in the separate sewer area, raingardens provide many of the same benefits to filter water and slow it down.

A rain garden is a shallow depression in your yard that contains plants that have deep roots and are designed to hold water. Rain gardens, which can be formal or informal, are growing in popularity because they are relatively low maintenance, help protect water quality, and provide food and shelter for many interesting birds, butterflies, and beneficial insects. Yes, beneficial insects! No need to worry about attracting mosquitoes because a properly designed rain garden drains water within 24 hours, well before the 14 days a mosquito larvae needs to turn into a mosquito.

Go native! When planting a rain garden, plant a variety of grasses, flowers, and shrubs that have deep roots and can handle the amount of rainwater anticipated. Native plants are a great choice because they are well suited to the soil and climatic conditions in our area. Native plants and plants with deep roots can absorb significantly more rainwater than lawns and are drought resistant.

For more information, search the web using the key words “rain garden.” You can also visit [www.grownative.org](http://www.grownative.org). On the site, you will find many examples of rain gardens in Missouri and useful information on how to use them on your property. Residents of Warson Woods are also eligible for Rainscape funding rebates (available through the Deer Creek Watershed Alliance) to install rain gardens in their yards. The Deer Creek Alliance website ([www.deercreekalliance.org](http://www.deercreekalliance.org)) and City Hall has additional information regarding these opportunities.