



Rain Gardens and Rain Scape Rebates through the 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 raingarden is a shallow depression in your yard that contains plants that have deep roots and are designed to hold water. Raingardens, 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 raingarden drains water within twenty-four hours, well before the fourteen days a mosquito larva needs to turn into a mosquito.

Go native! When planting a raingarden, 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 lawn and are drought-resistant.

For more information, search the web using keyword "raingarden." You can also visit the Missouri Prairie Foundation's website at www.grownative.org. On their site, you will find many examples of raingardens in Missouri and useful information on how to use them on your property. Residents of Warson Woods are also eligible for Rain Scape funding rebates (available through the Deer Creek Watershed Alliance) to install raingardens in their yards. For additional information regarding these opportunities, visit City Hall and the Deer Creek Watershed Alliance's website at www.deercreekalliance.org.