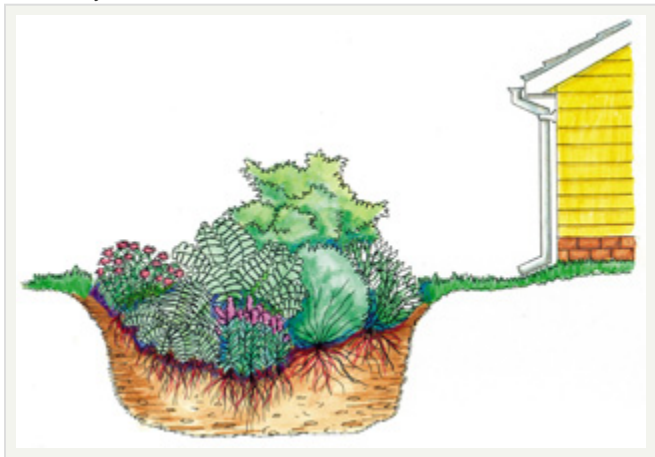




Rainscaping: A Beautiful Solution to Water Pollution

Rain Gardens

Rain gardens are landscape features designed to capture and naturally filter storm water. Also called bioswales or biofiltration gardens, these gardens use depressions to collect, slow down, and spread water over a larger area to allow it time to soak into the ground rather than flow into storm sewers and ultimately waterways.



Why plant a rain garden?

- Rain gardens require very little, if any, watering and less water usage means lower water bills. This also helps reduce wasting drinking water. In the District of Columbia, more than 40 percent of the potable water supply is used for gardening and other outdoor activities.
- Rain gardens capture runoff and slowly filter out common pollutants and sediment.
- Less storm water runoff -- runoff can cause erosion and often carries pollutants from streets and other paved surfaces. Reducing the volume of runoff running into sewer drains helps reduce pollution flowing into local waterways.
- With appropriate plants, rain gardens provide attractive habitats for birds, butterflies and beneficial insects.

Rain Barrels

Rain barrels are a centuries-old technique to collect rainwater from roofs. Rain barrels attach to the downspouts at your home or business and help keep waterways clean. You can find rain barrels for sale in garden centers and online.



Why Have a Rain Barrel?

- Low-cost water conservation device that can be used to reduce runoff.
- Help delay and reduce the peak runoff flow rates.
- Clean water for healthy gardens and lawns.
- Help delay the need to expand sewage treatment facilities.

Source URL: <https://www.usbg.gov/rainscaping-beautiful-solution-water-pollution>