



make a clear difference for Flathead Lake

Rain Gardens

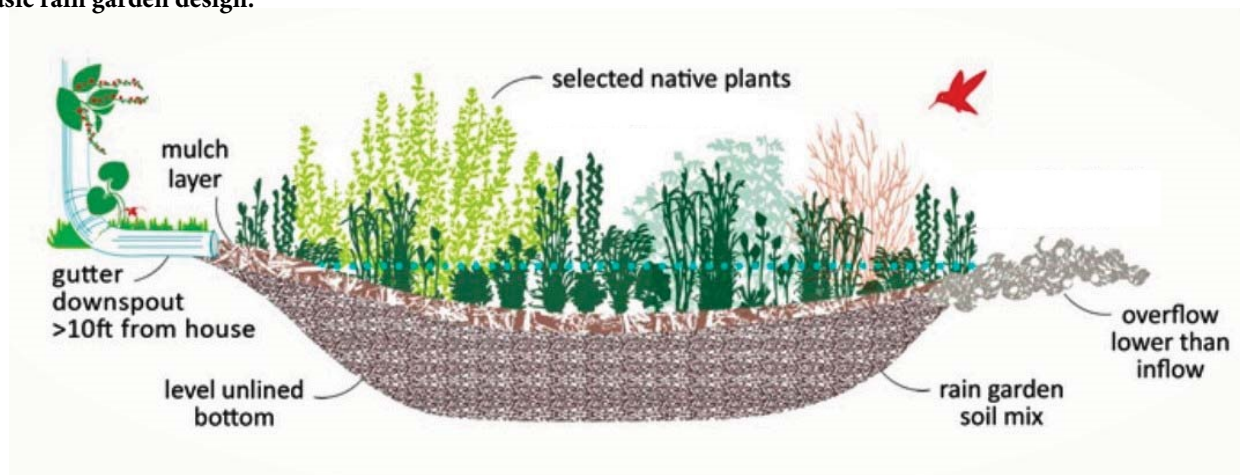
WHY SHOULD WE CARE?

If you are having stormwater drainage issues on your property, there is an easy, affordable fix that can help prevent polluted stormwater runoff from entering our streams, rivers and lakes... and it's a beautiful solution!

A rain garden is specifically designed to manage stormwater runoff from rooftops, driveways, lawns, roads, and parking lots. Rain gardens look like a simple perennial garden, but helps reduce non-point source pollution like road salt and deicer, fertilizers, pesticides, bacteria from pet waste, eroded soil, grass clippings, and litter, which helps to protect our local waters.



Basic rain garden design.



Source: www.12000raingardens.org

A rain garden is a landscaped, shallow depression that allows rain and snowmelt to be collected and seep naturally into the ground. During a storm, a rain garden fills with water, the plants use the water and then excess water slowly seeps into the ground, filtering out pollutants, and recharging the groundwater.

Compared to a patch of lawn, a rain garden allows ~30% more water to soak into the ground. Rain gardens work effectively by using tolerant native plants and organic, absorbent soils.



Newly-planted rain garden



Rain garden after a storm event



Well-established rain garden

RAIN GARDENS ARE...

- an affordable option for homeowners compared with traditional pipe and drain systems.
- easy to maintain and actually work better over time, unlike drains and sewer pipes.
- a proven way to reduce water pollution locally and regionally.
- a beautiful way to solve a stormwater runoff problem, while creating habitat for birds, honeybees, butterflies and other wildlife.

Montana native plants to include in your rain garden.



Douglas spirea



Golden currant



Red columbine



Woods rose



Giant wildrye



Yellow monkeyflower

HOW TO LEARN MORE:

Great online resources for installing your rain garden:

www.12000raingardens.org

Rain Gardens-A how to manual for homeowners

Rain Garden Handbook for Western Washington



The Flathead Lakers offer opportunities to learn more:

-Learn more about Montana native plants at the Montana Native Plant Society, www.mtnativeplants.org and the Center for Native Plants in Whitefish, www.centerfornativeplants.com, or your local nursery.

-*Clean Water Practices Site Visit*: We will explore clean water practices that might work for you.

-*Walk and Talk Tour*: Watch for our small group tours to see lake-friendly lawns and other clean water practices in use.

-*Additional clean water practices fact sheets* and informational brochures are available on our website.

Visit www.flatheadlakers.org 'Tips for Clean Water Stewards'

Together, we can keep Flathead Lake blue!

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