

Spread it Out

Rain gardens

What is a Rain Garden?

A rain garden is a shallow saucer-shaped garden that soaks rainwater into the ground quickly. They help protect our streams and Lake Erie by filtering stormwater runoff and replenishing groundwater. Plants in the garden create a beautiful landscape that also provides food and shelter for birds and butterflies.



photo by Susan Bryan, Washtenaw County Water Resources

In our developed urban landscape most rainwater and snowmelt are sent straight from our homes, businesses, and streets to our stormwater system. This is stormwater runoff. The stormwater pipes and basins funnel the untreated water into our streams and Lake Erie.

- Stormwater picks up pollutants from yards, parking lots and streets
- Stormwater gets hot as it travels over pavement
- Stormwater flows faster as it travels through pipes

All this means even a small storm event can impact our streams and Lake Erie. One solution to reduce and spread out stormwater runoff is to re-direct downspout flow to a Rain Garden!

Slow it Down, Spread it Out, Soak it In
#lakeeriestartshere

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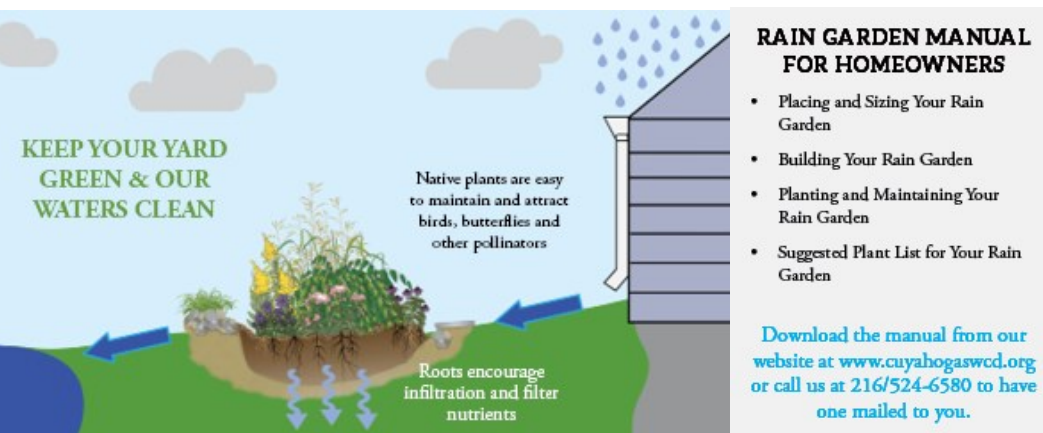
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Rain gardens help to spread the water out over a planted area and hold the water for 1-2 days. This lets the water soak into the ground instead of running off.

Rain gardens are not a pond and will not breed mosquitos.
Mosquitos take 7-10 days to go through their life cycle.
If installed properly, the water in a rain garden will be gone long before they have a chance to breed.



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Great news! Rain gardens can also save you money!

The Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer Districts offers a credit on your stormwater utility fee if you install a rain garden that drains 25% of the property's roof area.

For details - www.neorsd.org

What is downspout disconnection and can I do it in my community?

Downspout disconnection is the process of separating roof downspouts from the sewer system. Instead downspouts are connected to a rain garden or vegetated filter strip. This spreads out the flow of water. *Before disconnecting downspouts or building a rain garden, check with your community.* Some communities do not allow for disconnection. Many communities require permits for disconnection and digging projects.

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