

HOW DOES THE BOULEVARD RAIN GARDEN PROGRAM WORK?

For Street Reconstruction Projects Only

Step 1: Sign up for a rain garden

Mark "YES" on the project questionnaire to sign up for a rain garden. An engineer will evaluate your location later to make sure a garden will work. Sometimes gardens cannot be put in due to underground utilities or steep slopes.

Step 2: City constructs your garden

During street reconstruction, a contractor will dig a depression and prepare the soil so it is loose and fluffy. Most gardens will have a



rock infiltration sump under the garden. This "rock baggie" helps water infiltrate quickly.

Step 3: Select a garden design

In fall after construction, residents select one of seven different garden designs: Easy Shrub Garden, Easy Daylily Garden, Sunny Garden, Sunny Border Garden, Butterflies and Friends, Minnesota Prairie Garden, or Shady Garden.

Coming in Fall 2007—3 new garden designs! Residents requested more formal gardens so our landscape designer is creating 3 new designs we'll unveil for the Desoto-Skillman project.

Step 4: Plant the garden

The spring after construction, residents plant their rain gardens. The city provides plants and hosts a planting day with



demonstrations and visits to all gardens to answer questions.

Step 5: Maintain your garden

Once the gardens are planted, residents are responsible for maintaining them. City staff provides educational support and consultations when needed. Most of the gardens are relatively low-



maintenance. But all the gardens require some weeding, watering the first year, and annual cutting back.

Help keep the ponds and wetlands in your neighborhood clean.

SIGN UP FOR A RAIN GARDEN!

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Will I pay less if I choose not to have a garden? No. Having or not having a rain garden will not change the amount of your assessment. The rain gardens are such a significant part of the storm-water system that they are included in the project costs.

We are elderly and unable to plant and maintain a garden. If you are elderly or physically unable to plant your garden, the city will help find volunteers to plant it. But maintenance will be your responsibility.

Will the garden be a breeding ground for mosquitoes? No. The gardens are constructed to infiltrate in less than 48 hours after a rain event. Mosquito larvae require 7-12 days of standing water before they emerge.



FOR MORE INFORMATION...

Maplewood Rain Garden Website:
www.ci.maplewood.mn.us/rainwatergardens



Maplewood Public Works
1902 County Road B East
Maplewood, MN 55109
651-249-2400



MAPLEWOOD

Together We Can

Rain Gardens On Maplewood Street Reconstruction Projects



Stormwater Pollution
Be part of the solution—plant a rain garden!

City Mandate:
Infiltrate first inch of all rain events

Goal for Neighborhood:
25% of homes with boulevard rain gardens

THE STORMWATER CHALLENGE

What happens when it rains?

In planted landscapes rain soaks into the ground. But when rain falls onto roofs, roads, driveways and other hard surfaces, it cannot infiltrate. In most neighborhoods this rainwater runoff is directed into storm sewers. From there it makes its way to a nearby stream, wetland, pond, or lake—untreated!

What's wrong with sending stormwater down the storm sewer?

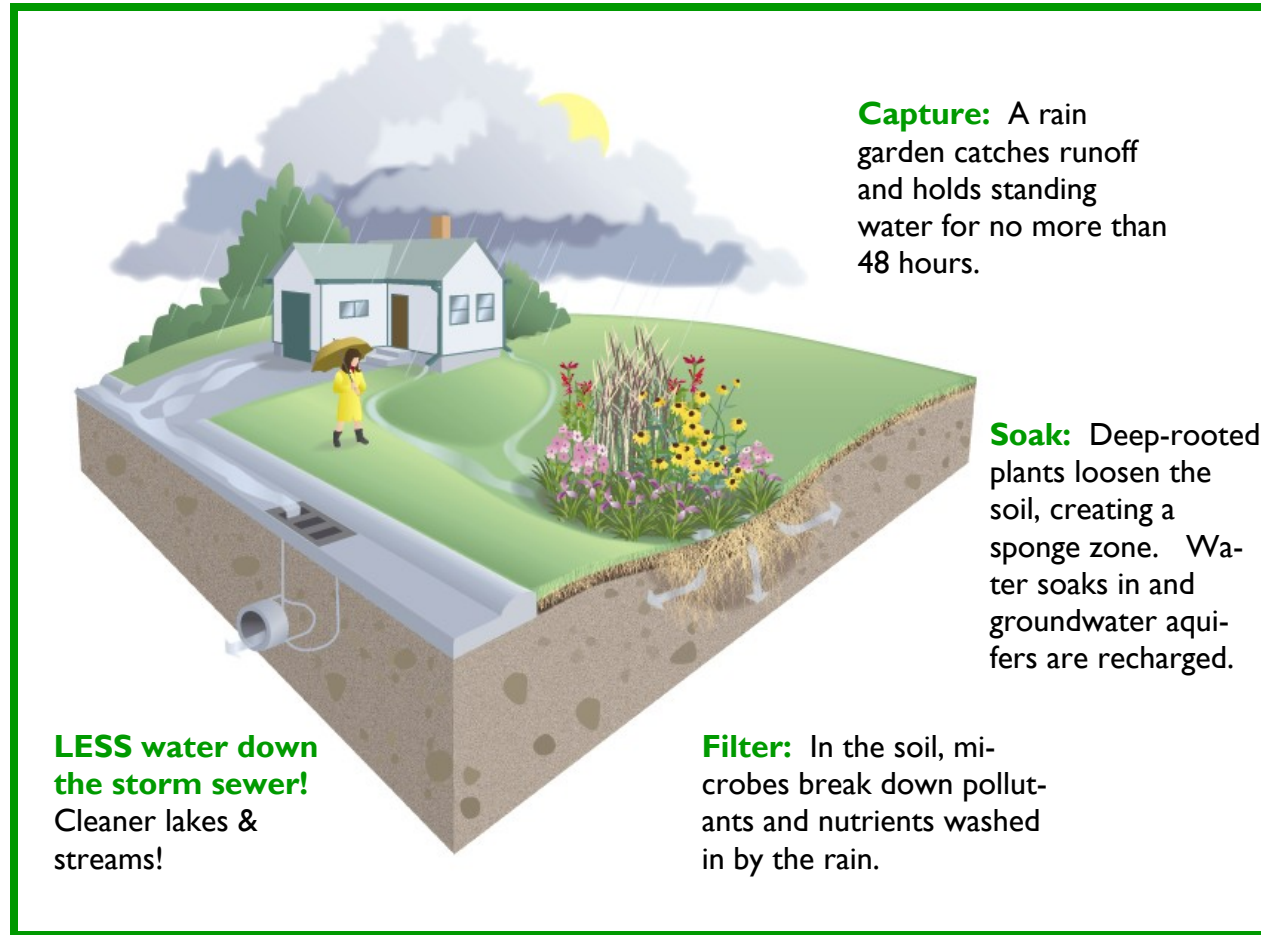
- Stormwater pollutes local waters. Most runoff is not treated. It goes directly into local lakes and streams carrying pollutants like soil, fertilizers, pesticides, oil, soap, litter, organic matter, and pet feces.
- Stormwater runoff in our lakes causes turbid water, sediment buildup and contributes to algae blooms. It can impact health of aquatic plants and animals. Poor water quality in lakes also affects aesthetics and recreation.
- Sending rainwater out of the neighborhood contributes to flooding downstream.
- Rainwater needs to soak in near where it falls so it can help recharge groundwater aquifers.

What can you do?

Sign up for a rain garden! Boulevard rain gardens can reduce stormwater runoff by 80% annually!

WHAT IS A RAIN GARDEN?

A rain garden is a depression in the landscape, that is planted like a garden, collects rainwater runoff, and allows it to infiltrate.



WHAT'S SO SPECIAL ABOUT MAPLEWOOD'S PROGRAM?

On street reconstruction projects, rain gardens are designed as a part of the neighborhood stormwater system. Runoff from the street is routed into rain gardens along the boulevard.

What will it look like?



Early rain garden projects had no curb.



New in 2006 — curb cuts! On newer projects, curb cuts direct water into the garden. Photo shows a Burnsville rain garden with a curb cut. The first Maplewood gardens with curb cuts were constructed in 2006 and will be planted in 2007.