



## **Enhance your Landscape and Protect Water Quality**

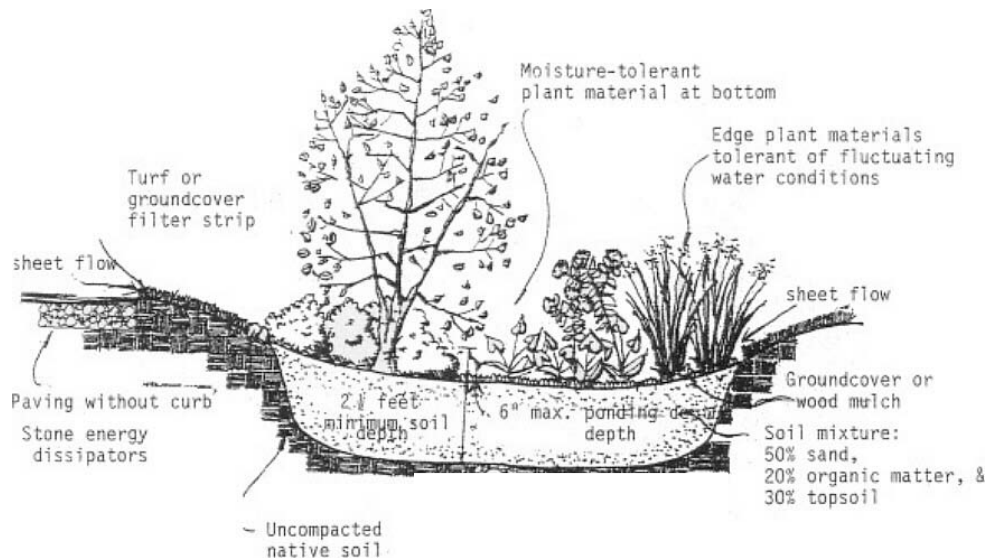
Rain gardens are beautiful. Rain gardens help to protect water quality in our lakes and streams by reducing the amount of nutrients and pollutants that would otherwise flow directly off the land. It's as simple as that. A rain garden is a natural or dug shallow depression designed to capture and store stormwater runoff from your property. All impervious surfaces such as your roof, sidewalk, driveway, patio and even some compacted lawns are considered hard surfaces that don't permit precipitation to infiltrate the ground. The runoff from these impervious surfaces can simply be directed to a rain garden. Rain gardens are easy to install and an inexpensive stormwater management addition to your property.

A rain garden should be at least 10 feet from your house and not located over a septic system. A rain garden should be planted in full sun or partial shade and should not be placed in an area of your yard that is already wet, which indicates saturated soils. A rain garden should contain native, non-invasive species because they tolerate dry conditions between rainfall events and don't require fertilizers or additional watering. Many flowering perennials will also tolerate and enhance a rain garden's beauty.

When rain falls on your property, it needs to infiltrate into your ground, recharging the groundwater and treating stormwater in the process. A rain garden is a simple contribution that you can create to collectively make a difference to Lake George's water quality.



A Rain Garden created to infiltrate stormwater



To watch the evolution of a rain garden, from identifying an appropriate location to maturity of the garden:  
[http://natsci.edgewood.edu/wingra/management/raingardens/rain\\_1\\_morephotos.htm](http://natsci.edgewood.edu/wingra/management/raingardens/rain_1_morephotos.htm)

The Department of Natural Science - Madison, Wisconsin

*How to Build a Rain Garden Manual* can be reviewed/printed from:  
<http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/water/wm/dsfm/shore/documents/rgmanual.pdf>

For additional information, contact the Lake George Waterkeeper  
[info@lakegeorgewaterkeeper.org](mailto:info@lakegeorgewaterkeeper.org) or call (518) 668-5913

