What is a Rain Garden?

A rain garden is a special garden with a shallow dip in the center to collect water running off roofs, pavement or lawns. It is typically planted with native shrubs, wildflowers, and grasses.

A rain garden will naturally trap nutrients, and other pollutants, and clean up dirty rainwater.
How does a rain garden work?

**Gutters & Down Spouts**
Assist with directing rain water from your roof to your rain garden.

**Deep Roots**
Plants with a deep root system encourage infiltration and help absorb nutrients.

**Berm**
A berm holds water in the garden during heavy rains.

**Native Plants**
Native plants are adapted to local conditions and are easy to maintain once established. Plus, they attract birds, butterflies and other pollinators.
What are the Benefits of Rain Gardens?

- Rain gardens are a beautiful solution to help keep our streams, rivers and lakes clean by filtering run-off water.
- Can help reduce flooding in your yard.
- They are filled with native plants that need less water, no fertilizer and no pesticides—saving time and money.
- Rain gardens attract and provide a habit for song birds and butterflies.
Native Plants in Rain Gardens

- Butterfly Weed
- ‘Gerald Darby’ Multicolored Iris
Native Plants in Rain Gardens

Prairie Dropseed

‘Magnus’ Purple Coneflower
Rain Garden Project in Three Oaks.

Rain gutters installed on the roof.

A trench built from roof to garden.
Rain Garden Project Continued

A Pipe was set from gutters to garden. To allow the water to flow into the garden.

This is the Garden site where the pea stone is being laid as a base to help water percolate into the ground.
Rain Garden Project in Three Oaks.

Poured sand and gravel down for the base.

Mixed Soil and compost together. We planted a wide variety of Native Plants. Later mulch was added to prevent weed growth.
Three Oaks Rain Garden One Year Later.

Special thanks for Volunteers from the Local Masonic Lodge, the Sunflower Garden Club, and other volunteers for helping with the Three Oaks Rain Garden Project it was a great success!
The New Buffalo Rain Garden
The New Troy Community Center Rain Garden
How to make your own Rain Garden!

- Plant a rain garden in your yard to protect water quality:
- Select a spot in your yard to capture rainwater.
- Use a shovel to create a shallow dip.
- Replace soil if needed. A good mix is 50-60% sand, 20-30% topsoil, and 20-30% compost.
- Plant native plants.
- Mulch with shredded hardwood.
- Water for the first year depending on rain fall.
Use rain barrels in the garden.

This rain barrel will collect and store water from the roof. It can be used for watering during dry periods, helping to reduce your water usage.

To make an order call the Berrien County Conservation Districts office at 269-471-9111 x5 or visit them on the web at: [http://berrienconservationdistrict.webs.com/rain-barrels](http://berrienconservationdistrict.webs.com/rain-barrels)
For more information please visit:
www.swmpc.org/lawn_care.asp or
www.raingardens.org
Or email Kris Martin at kmartin@swmpc.org

Thank You!