

Ripple Effect # 49 - Rain Gardens

Rain gardens are landscaped areas planted to wild flowers and other native vegetation that soak up rain water, mainly from the roof of a house or other buildings.

When you make a rain garden you can improve local water quality while creating a beautiful natural area that will attract birds and butterflies. Rain gardens allow rain and snowmelt to seep naturally into the ground.

The rain garden fills with a few inches of water after a storm and the water slowly filters into the ground rather than running off to a storm drain. While an individual rain garden may seem like a small thing, collectively they produce substantial neighborhood and community environmental benefits.

Rain gardens won't solve the problem entirely, but they're an easy and attractive way for homeowners to help lessen the water-quality problems their sidewalks, driveways, and roofs create.

Contact your local extension office for information on how you can plant an effective and beautiful rain garden.

This Ripple Effect is brought to you by the Red River Basin Commission.