




1




2



This brochure is made possible by a grant obtained through the PA Department of Environmental Protection Environmental Education Grants Program.

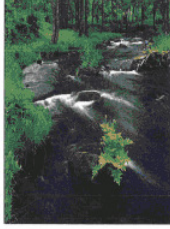
The mission of the Bucks County Conservation District is to provide for the wise use, management and development of the county's soil, water and related natural resources. This is accomplished with the cooperation of public agencies, private groups and individuals.

Bucks County  
Conservation District  
1456 Perry Road, Suite 704  
Doylestown, PA 18901  
Phone: 215 345 7577  
Fax: 215 345 7584  
www.buckscccd.org



## Rain Gardens

### For Clean Streams



Planting a rain garden is an easy way to reduce the amount of nonpoint source pollution entering our streams.

Bucks County  
Conservation District

In Pursuit of  
Environmental Excellence

## Rain Garden


### Fundamentals

Storm water runoff is responsible for up to 70 % of the pollution found in our streams, lakes and rivers. Impervious surfaces (ones that do not allow water to penetrate the ground) such as buildings and parking lots contribute large amounts of water to our storm drains. This water often contains many pollutants.

Rain gardens help hold this storm water and allow it to soak into the ground where many of the pollutants can be filtered out by the soil. Rain Gardens can reduce the amount of water and pollutants which enter our streams by up to 30 %.


Gardens can be positioned to catch water before it runs into storm inlets on your street, or as it runs out of downspouts as seen in the following photos.

Each garden is unique, so be creative!



## Rain Garden

### Before & After Photos



## Building a Rain Garden

### Determine the location

A gentle sloping area (no more than a 10% slope) at least 10 feet away from your house is best.



### Recommended Native Plants:

Suggestions for wet areas:

- *Chelone glabra*, turtle head
- *Asclepias incarnata*, milkweed
- *Iris versicolor*, blue flag iris
- *Osmunda regalis*, royal fern

For more information on how you can create your own rain garden using native plants, follow these web links or contact the Conservation District office.

- <http://www.raingardens.org>
- <http://www.raingardennetwork.com>