

## ENHANCE YOUR LANDSCAPE AND PROTECT WATER QUALITY

# RAIN GARDENS

Rain gardens are beautiful and they are designed to help protect water quality in our lakes and streams by infiltrating and treating nutrients and pollutants that would otherwise flow directly overland in stormwater.

A rain garden is a natural shallow depression or one created that is designed to capture and store stormwater runoff from property. All impervious surfaces, such as a roof, sidewalk, driveway, patio and even some compacted lawns, are hard surfaces that don't permit precipitation to infiltrate into the ground.

The runoff from these impervious surfaces can simply be directed to a rain garden, which is designed to receive, store and treat stormwater. Rain gardens are easy to install and an inexpensive and effective stormwater management addition to your property.

When rain falls, it needs to infiltrate into the ground, recharging the groundwater and



An example of a rain garden constructed and planted in the Lake George watershed.

treating stormwater in the process, rather than flowing overland, carrying pollutants, and transporting them to a wetland, stream or Lake George.

A rain garden is a simple contribution that you can create to collectively make a difference to Lake George's water quality.

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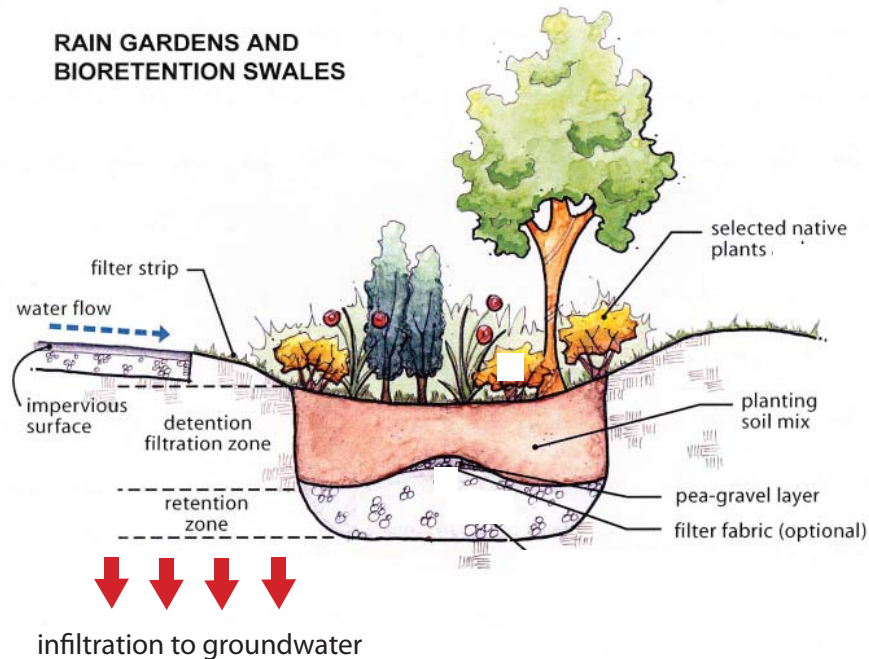
po box 352, lake george, ny 12845 · (518) 668-9700  
info@fundforlakegeorge.org  
fundforlakegeorge.org



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**WATERKEEPER®**

po box 591, lake george, ny 12845 · (518) 668-5913  
info@lakegeorgewaterkeeper.org  
lakegeorgewaterkeeper.org

## RAIN GARDENS AND BIORETENTION SWALES



Rain gardens are a beautiful way to solve stormwater runoff problems. They are a practical solution to stormwater control as well as a beautiful addition to your property.

### HOW TO PLANT A RAIN GARDEN

1. Identify where stormwater flows on your property. Stormwater occurs during rain events as rain water flows across land. A rain garden should be located to capture stormwater. This will be at a low point on your property below your house and/or driveway.
2. A rain garden should be at least

10 feet from a house and 100 feet from a septic system.

3. 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.
4. A rain garden should contain native, non-invasive plant species because they tolerate dry conditions between rainfall events, do not require fertilizers or additional watering, and tolerate wet conditions for up to 24 hours as the rain garden infiltrates stormwater. Many flowering perennials will also enhance a rain garden's beauty.
5. A rain garden should be no more than 12 inches deep and retain water less than 24 hours.

For more information or help in siting and designing your rain garden, contact the Lake George Waterkeeper staff at 518.668.5913.

