

How Does the Street-Side Rain Garden Program Work?

Frequently Asked Questions

For Targeted / Direct-Discharge Neighborhoods Only

Step 1: Sign up for a rain garden (at No Cost to you)

Call - (651) 275-1136 x.36
Email - rusty.schmidt@mnwcd.org

Step 2: City constructs your garden

A specialized contractor will excavate the garden (within the public boulevard), build a retaining wall and prepare the soil for infiltration.



Shredded wood mulch, edging and sod will then be added by the contractor.

Step 3: Select your planting plan

After construction, the garden designer will meet with residents to finalize the planting plan for the rain garden. You can have as much input as you want.

Step 4: Plant the garden

The city will provide all of the materials, including plants, and will have a contractor install the entire raingarden for you.



Step 5: Maintain your garden

Once the gardens are planted, residents are responsible for light maintenance (weeding, etc.). City staff provides educational support and consultations when needed. The gardens are relatively low maintenance, but will require some weeding, watering the first year, and cutting back in spring.

Will I have to pay something to get a rain garden? No. The rain garden program is paid for through past Water Quality Dedication fees, Storm-water Utility Fees and a grant.

Will the garden be a breeding ground for mosquitoes? No. The rain gardens are constructed to infiltrate in less than 48 hours after a rain event. Mosquito larvae require 7-12 days of standing water before they emerge.

Will too many rain gardens make the lake go dry? No. The rain gardens soak water into the shallow groundwater, which will find its way to the lake.

Is this deal too good to be true? No. But this is the only year that the city will be offering free raingardens to your neighborhood, so...act now to make a lasting impact in your community.

FOR MORE INFORMATION or to SIGN UP for a Free Rain Garden:

Contact: Rusty Schmidt
Natural Resources Specialist

Call - (651) 275-1136 x.36
Email - rusty.schmidt@mnwcd.org

Brochure adapted from City of Maplewood

CITY OF
LAKE ELMO

Street-Side Rain Gardens

Treating Runoff at the Source in the Road Right-of-Way



Stormwater Pollution
Be part of the solution—
with a free rain garden!

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The Stormwater Challenge

What happens when it rains?

In planted landscapes rain soaks into the ground. But when rain falls onto roofs, roads, driveways and other hard surfaces, it cannot infiltrate.

In your neighborhood rain water runoff flows into the storm sewers. From there it flows directly into the lake —untreated!

What's wrong with sending storm-water down the storm sewer?

- Storm-water pollutes local waters. Storm-water runoff is not treated. It flows directly into local lakes, ponds and wetlands carrying pollutants like soil, fertilizers, pesticides, oil, soap, litter, organic matter and pet feces.
- Storm-water runoff in our lakes causes murky water, sediment buildup and overgrowth of algae. It can impact health of fish, wildlife and plants. Poor water quality in lakes also affects aesthetics and recreation.
- Sending rainwater downstream contributes to flooding.
- Rainwater needs to soak in near where it falls so it can help recharge groundwater.

What can you do?

Sign up for a free rain garden!
Street-side rain gardens can reduce storm-water runoff by 70% + annually.

What is a Rain Garden?

A **rain garden** is a depression in the landscape, that is planted like a garden, that **captures** rainwater runoff, **soaks** rain into the soil and **filters** out the pollutants naturally.



Why your neighborhood?

The runoff from your neighborhood flows directly into lakes and streams in Lake Elmo through your streets and storm drains.

Reducing runoff with raingardens in specific locations in your neighborhood will help to keep Lake Elmo's lakes and streams clean.

What will it look like on your street?

