

# Washington County South Service Center Raingardens for Water Quality



Check out the raingardens at the new Washington County South Service Center!

## What is a raingarden?

A raingarden is a garden planted in a shallow depression to collect runoff from rain and melting snow. Raingardens help water soak into the ground and reduce stormwater pollution.

## How do they work?

When it rains, water runs off of paved areas and into strategically placed raingardens. From there, the water infiltrates down into the loosely packed soil and is completely absorbed within 24 to 48 hours.

## Why were they installed at the South Service Center?

Impervious surfaces, like the asphalt in this parking lot, cannot absorb stormwater. These raingardens were built to collect stormwater from the parking lot that would otherwise run off into a storm sewer. They are not only attractive, but they also help to prevent pollution to the lake in Cottage Grove Ravine Park and to the Mississippi River.

## Where are the gardens anyway?

Take a look at the plantings in the parking lot medians. They may not look like much, but these raingardens are marvels of modern engineering, carefully designed to mimic natural hydrology.

## How can I plant raingardens at my own house?

You don't have to be an engineer to build a raingarden for your home. Visit [www.BlueThumb.org](http://www.BlueThumb.org) for how-to's, local retailers, plant recommendations and more.

Thanks to the following partners on the Washington County South Service Center raingarden project:



## Fast Facts

🌸 Runoff - rain and melting snow that roll off roofs and roads - is the number one cause of water pollution in Washington County.

🌸 During an average year, we receive 24 in. of rain. For a typical residential lot, this means 49,000 gallons of runoff.

🌸 A 100 sq. ft. raingarden can capture 9000 gallons of runoff in a year.