RAIN GARDEN

A rain garden is bowl-shaped to capture and absorb rainfall and snowmelt. These gardens help improve downstream water quality and recharge groundwater. Rain garden plants have to be able to thrive in times of flood and drought, so not every plant is suited for this environment. Lucky for us, some native plants are. This guide provides a suggested rain garden planting plan.

For more information and instructions for building a rain garden, download the Southern Lake Michigan Rain Garden Manual at http://www.iiseagrant.org/catalog/l2/LMrain_garden.php

PLANTING OPTIONS

Whether you want a large garden or prefer to start out small, customize your rain garden by choosing a variety of plants or a few select favorites. Get creative when planting by phasing in your garden towards your home, planting closer to the sidewalk, or lining the fence in your backyard - just be sure to plant at least 10 ft. from your house (or 20 ft. if there is a basement or heavy clay soil) to prevent water seeping into the foundation. While suggested plant lists and design templates can help, you can personalize your garden however you like, but be sure to check local municipal or HOA ordinances.

WHERE TO FIND PLANTS AND MORE INFORMATION

Grand Prairie Friends provided the plant list. See their website for availability. The Illinois Native Plant Society webpage lists other sources of plants. For more information about plants, see the University of Illinois Extension Horticulture website.

PUT YOUR NATIVE PLANT GARDEN ON THE MAP

You can be part of a network of native plantings by registering your Illinois native plant garden or rain garden. This helps build community and encourage native plant use. Add your native plant garden to the map: http://go.illinois.edu/GardenMap

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RAIN GARDEN
A NATIVE PLANTING GUIDE FOR RAIN GARDEN BEDS

PLANTING PLAN

RAIN GARDEN
SOURCES
LEGEND
FOUR SEASON INTEREST

PART SUN
POLLINATOR
MOIST/SANDY
SUNLIGHT
WATER

GREAT BLUE LOBELIA
Lobelia siphilitica
WHITE WILD INDIGO
Asclepias incarnata
PRAIRIE DROPSEED
Sporobolus heterolepis

SUNSHINE
MOIST
PART SUN

PRAIRIE BLAZING STAR
Liatris pycnostachya
GRAY'S SEDGE
Carex grayi
INDIAN GRASS
Sorghastrum nutans

SUMMER
SPRING
WINTER
FALL

PART SUN

NEW ENGLAND ASTER
Aster novae-angliae
GOLDEN ALEXANDERS
Zizia aurea
WHITE INDIGO
Asclepias incarnata

MOIST/SANDY
SUNLIGHT
WATER

DIAMETER

INDIAN GRASS
Sorghastrum nutans
GOLDEN ALEXANDERS
Zizia aurea
WHITE INDIGO
Asclepias incarnata
PRAIRIE DROPSEED
Sporobolus heterolepis

SUNSHINE
MOIST
WATER

PART SUN

WHITE WILD INDIGO
Asclepias incarnata
PRAIRIE BLAZING STAR
Liatris pycnostachya
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Sorghastrum nutans

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