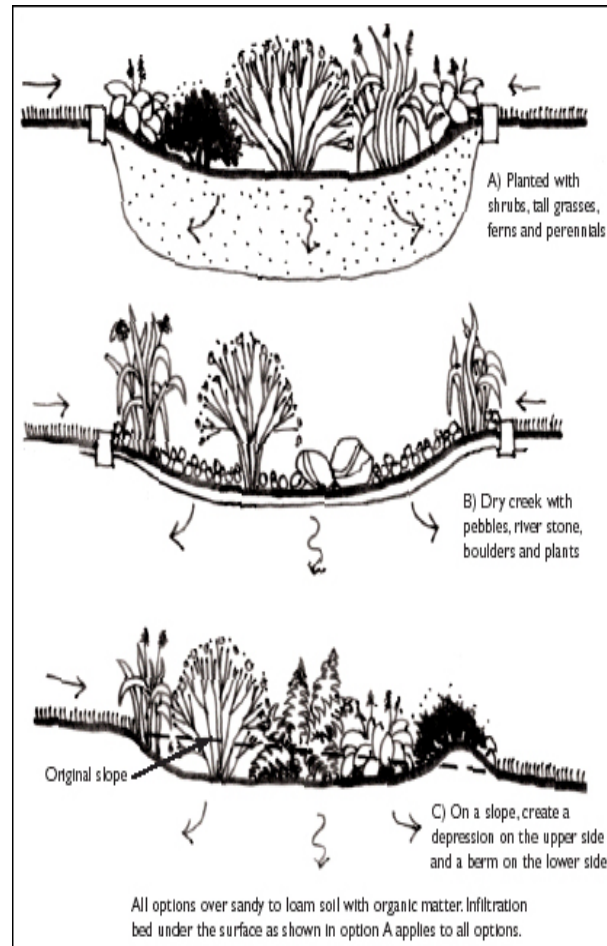


ATHENS RAIN GARDEN PROGRAM

To reduce flooding in our area and to improve water quality Athens wants to partner with local property owners to build 250 rain gardens in the next 3 years. For those that qualify Athens Public Works will help excavate and provide bedding materials. We will also provide free consultation for anyone wanting to build a rain garden in Athens.



Examples of some types of rain gardens.



For more information on Rain Gardens go to www.cityofthenstn.com

Phone: 423 744-2746
 Fax: 423 744-2772
 E-mail: publicworks@cityoathenstn.com

ATHENS RAIN GARDEN PROGRAM AND GRANT

For more information on Rain Gardens go to www.cityofthenstn.com



Build Your Own Rain Garden!
 Public Works can Help!

Tel: (423) 744-2746
 Email: publicworks@cityofathenstn.com

WHY BUILD A RAIN GARDEN

Rooftops, driveways, and other impervious surfaces has created additional run off. This runoff causes flooding, erosion, and carries pollutants. By building rain gardens we capture more of the runoff and allow it to percolate into the ground, filter pollutants out of it. In natural areas only 10% of the rain that falls turns into run off. In urban areas with 100% impervious surfaces almost all the rain that falls becomes run off. Rain gardens help us reverse this trend. If everyone was able to capture their runoff and filter it with a rain garden Athens would rarely flood, we would have much less water pollution.

Rain Gardens are beautiful natural places and can fit into any landscape. The difference between a rain garden and any other landscaped area is that the soils have been amended below the garden to soak up more rain water, and the plants are typically native deep rooted plants. Also they are designed to capture water from sheet flows from pervious surfaces or con-



How to Start:

1. **Step one give us a call** at 744-2746 and a representative from Public Works will meet with you on your property and discuss your ideas for a rain garden. They can help you choose a location, size, and some design guidelines.
2. **Step 2 Easement**– If your rain garden will help reduce flooding and you need assistance in building the garden you will be required to sign a temporary construction easement so Athens can come onto your property and help you get started.
3. **Step 3 One Call**- Public Works will mark the area of the rain garden in white paint and perform a TN One Call to make sure you don't have any utilities in the way.
4. **Step 4 Excavation**—A crew when weather permits will excavate the garden usually down 1-2 feet and fill it with a blend of composted wood, sand, and leaf mulch. Your top soil is put back on top and clay soils are hauled off by Public Works.
5. **Step 5 Planting**– This step is up to you. You will want to purchase your plants and plant them in your new rain garden and add any cover you think is necessary.

Eligibility:

Property owners in the city of Athens are eligible for help with building a rain garden. However Public Works only

has the time and materials to build so many per year. Those properties whose rain garden will offer the most benefit for the community will be first priority. Others will be done by first come first serve basis

Common Native Rain Garden

Plants: Plants should be selected based on level of moisture, soil condition, and amount of sun. The following are example of native plants that might be well suited in and around your rain garden:

Trees- Water oaks, pin oaks, red maples, river birch, willow, red bud, sweet bay magnolia, witch hazel, Iron wood, Carolina silver bell.

Shrubs-red twig dogwood, serviceberry, red chokeberry, sweet shrub, American beauty berry, Buttonbush, swamp mallow, St. John's Wort, Blueberry, winterberry, Maple leaf, Viburnum, Flame Azalea, hydrangea, nine bark, and spice bush.

Grasses and Ground cover- Big Bluestem, brooms hedge, river cane, oat grass, Indian grass, hog peanut, wild ginger, Carolina Phlox, creeping phlox, dwarf crested iris,

Flowers- Virginia bluebells, black-eyed susan, bee balm, columbine, violets, Christmas ferns, cinnamon fern, shooting star, purple cone flower, blue cohosh, aster, and butterfly weed.

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E-mail: