

# Rain Gardens

## Making a Beautiful Difference!

*This perennial garden of native plants protects water quality while adding beauty to the yard. Water from the roof soaks in instead of running off.*

### Why build a rain garden?

- *Water that soaks in replenishes groundwater and helps prevent flooding.*
- *A Rain Garden protects water quality by trapping sediment, fertilizers and other pollutants.*
- *It needs no additional fertilizer and little pesticides.*
- *Native plants provide food and shelter for butterflies, song birds and other animals.*

### A typical rain garden:

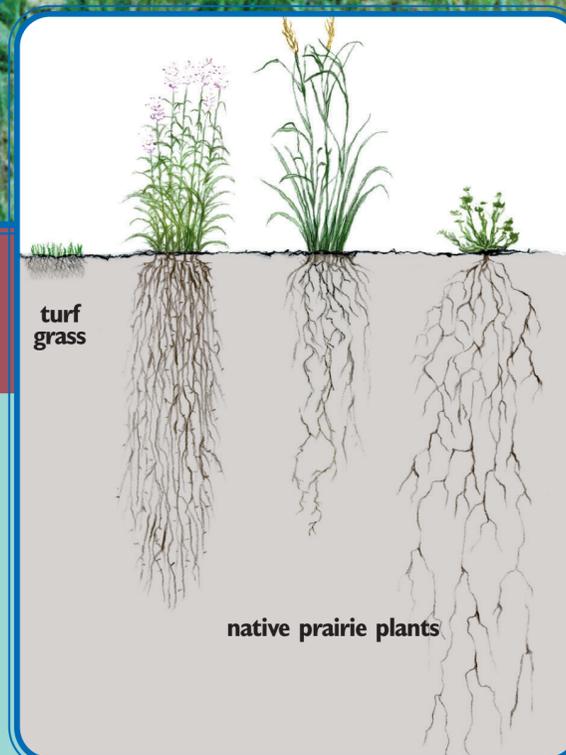
- *Is a sunken garden 4 - 8 inches deep*
- *Has a flat bottom*
- *Is 1/3 the size of the area draining to it – usually 75 - 300 square feet in size*
- *Can be formal or informal in design*
- *Drains within two days*

### Did you know . . .

*Water running off of residential roofs, roads and driveways can increase water in a stream by 500%, leading to increased flooding and erosion. A 300-square-foot rain garden infiltrates 12,000 gallons of water every year, or enough to fill 2 1/2 tanker trucks.*



Graphic design/production by Amy Hurley, UW-Extension Environmental Resources Center. Photo by Roger Banneman.



### Why use native plants?

*With roots growing down twice as deep as the plants are tall, native plants are very efficient at absorbing water.*

*Also, each year one-third of the roots die, providing deep tunnels for water to filter into the ground.*