

Stormwater Solutions: Rain Gardens

What is Stormwater?

Stormwater runoff is rain or other water that runs off streets, rooftops, parking lots, lawns and other hard surfaces. As Navassa develops, more hard surfaces are created and less rainfall can soak into the ground. This process allows pollutants to enter our local waterways without being properly cleaned and can damage the environment and our local water supply overtime.



What is a Rain Garden?

A rain garden is a shallow depression in the ground that captures rainwater runoff from your roof and driveway. Rain gardens help the water soak into the ground rather than running off your property into the storm drain system or roadside ditches.

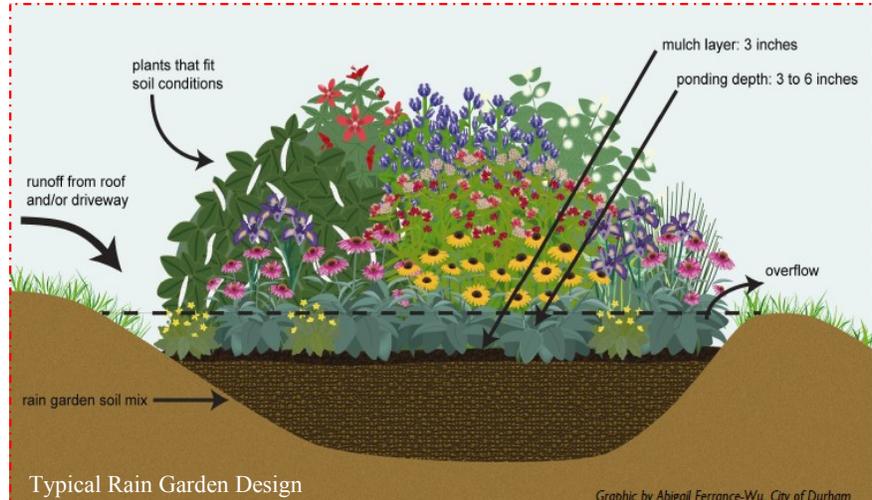
Rain gardens help address stormwater problems by temporarily holding water from a storm and giving it a chance to soak into the ground. This prevents pollution from getting into our streams and recharges groundwater.

Rain gardens can also be a beautiful addition to your landscape!



Rain Garden, NC Aquarium

For more information, Please contact the Town of Navassa, Stormwater Division at 910-371-2432 or visit: www.bae.ncsu.edu/topic/raingarden/ or www.townofnavassa.org/stormwatermanagement.html



Typical Rain Garden Design

Graphic by Abigail Ferrance-Wu, City of Durham

Quick Rain Garden How-To Guide

1. Pick a Spot!

Try to choose a naturally occurring low spot in your yard where water gathers or choose a spot where your downspouts can be easily directed toward the garden. The garden should be at least 10 feet away from your home to prevent flooding in your house. Do not locate the garden over your septic tank. Try to choose a location in either full or partial sun.

2. Sketch it on Paper!

Plan your garden on paper before you dig so you will be able to create the best appearance possible for your rain garden.

3. Choose your Plants!

Native plants are suggested for rain gardens because they are best adapted for our climate. You will want to choose plants that will grow well in both wet and dry areas because the rain garden will temporarily fill with rainwater from time to time. For a full list of suggested plants, visit www.bae.ncsu.edu/topic/raingarden/plants.htm

4. Lay it out!

Lay out the shape and boundary of the garden with string or a garden hose.

Before you start digging contact North Carolina 811 to locate all underground utilities.

5. Dig it!

Remove the grass and dig your garden approximately 4-8 inches deep.

6. Prepare it!

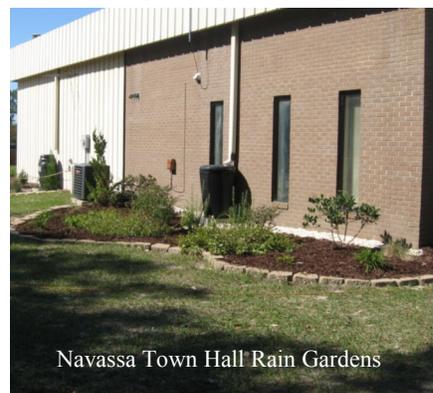
Combine the existing soil with 2"-3" of compost.

7. Plant it!

Place your plants in the approximate locations you designed. Plants should be placed about 1 foot apart from each other. Lay out the design first and make any changes before planting. Then, use a hand trowel to plant the small shrubs, flowers, and grasses.

8. Mulch and Water!

Apply mulch about 2-3 inches deep. This will help to keep the soil moist. Water and arrange the downspouts into the garden. If it does not rain frequently after planting, keep the garden well watered. Water every other day for 2 weeks until garden looks to be growing on its own.



Navassa Town Hall Rain Gardens