



Municipal Services Agency

Department of Water Resources

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Rain Gardens: Green Alternative to Traditional Landscapes

Sacramento, CA - Create a drought-friendly garden for your home. With California in its third drought year, Rain Gardens are a great alternative for garden enthusiasts who want to create a beautiful landscape while conserving water. Rain Gardens consist of native, drought-tolerant plants making it more resilient to the impacts of drought while flourishing during the rainy season.

What Are Rain Gardens and How Do They Work?

Rain Gardens are shallow, landscaped depressions that capture rain water from roofs and/or pavement. These gardens are meant to be planted under the downspout of your property at least 10 feet away from any building foundation. By collecting rain water, this garden will help maximize the amount of rain we receive this season.

Typically, rainwater will run off your roof, flow through your yard and make its way onto streets and into gutters, carrying along with it all the loose dirt, fertilizers and pesticides from your roof and lawn. Rain Gardens are designed to help keep the rain water where it is wanted the most – your garden, as well as absorb stormwater runoff from entering the storm drains.

Building a Rain Garden

When selecting plants for your rain garden we advise using native, drought-tolerant plants that can withstand both cold and extreme hot temperatures making them ideal for the Sacramento area. The following are some added benefits to adding Rain Gardens to your landscape.

- **Water Conservation:** An average sized rain garden in Sacramento can potentially retain thousands of gallons of water every year.
- **Aesthetics:** They can be landscaped with plants that produce beautiful flowers and shrubs.
- **Habitat for Birds and Butterflies:** Select plants that attract beneficial insects and birds.

Start planting your Rain Garden this fall and watch your garden flourish. For more information on Rain Gardens, visit our website: www.riverfriendly.org.

(See Photo of a Rain Garden at the Sacramento County's New Animal Care Shelter on Next Page)

"Managing Tomorrow's Water Today"

