

# **Mendota Heights Resources**

## **Rain Garden Grant Opportunities:**

Landscaping for Clean Water Program:

<https://dakotaswcd.org/services/landscaping-for-clean-water/>

Lawns to Legumes:

<https://bwsr.state.mn.us/l2l>

## **Other Community Partners:**

Blue Thumb:

<https://bluethumb.org/>

Dakota County Soil and  
Water Conservation District:

<https://dakotaswcd.org/>

## **City of Mendota Heights:**

Rain garden examples can be found at City Hall, the Par 3 Golf Course, and Two Rivers High School.

Please contact the City of Mendota Heights at 651-452-1850 for more information.



## **RAIN GARDEN BENEFITS**

- Filter Pollution and Excess Nutrients
- Reduce Flooding and Erosion
- Recharge Local Groundwater
- Reduce Harmful Algae
- Improve Water Quality of Our Lakes, Wetlands, and Rivers
- Provide Better Water Quality for Fish and Other Aquatic Life
- Provide Habitat for Pollinators and Wildlife, Including Birds and Butterflies



For more information:

Krista Spreiter, CWD

Natural Resources Coordinator

City of Mendota Heights

Email: [KSpreiter@mendotaheightsmn.gov](mailto:KSpreiter@mendotaheightsmn.gov)

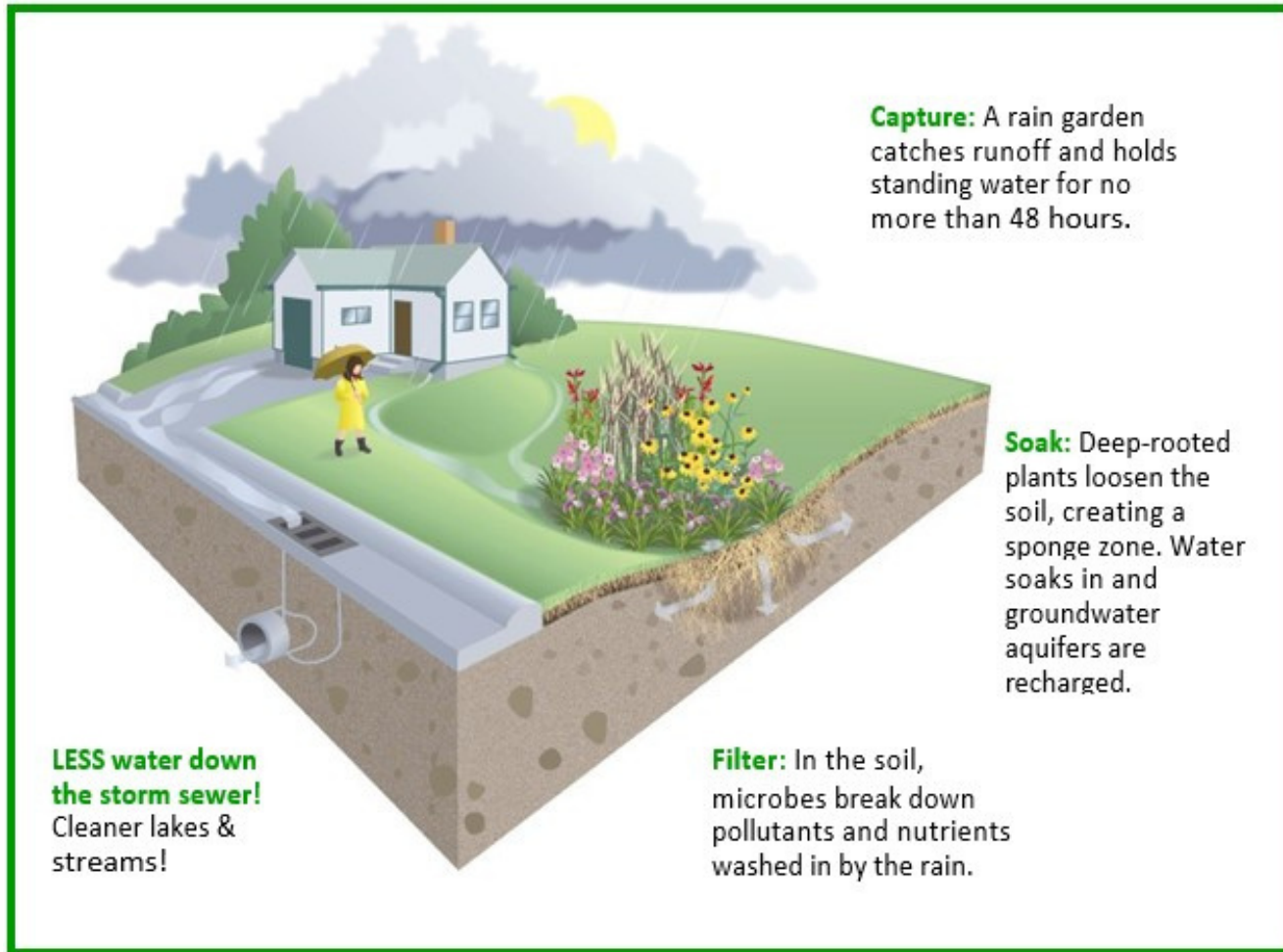
Phone: 651-255-1123



Be a part of the solution to  
stormwater pollution-  
**Plant a Rain Garden!**

# WHAT IS A RAIN GARDEN?

A rain garden is a depression in the landscape that is planted like a garden. Its purpose is to collect rainwater runoff and allow the runoff to infiltrate into the ground.



## What happens when it rains?

In planted landscapes rain soaks into the ground, but when rain falls onto roofs, roads, driveways, compacted lawns, and other hard surfaces, it cannot infiltrate. In most neighborhoods this rain, called stormwater runoff, is directed into storm sewers. From there it makes its way to a nearby stream, wetland, pond, or lake; untreated and carrying pollutants, fertilizers, pesticides, oil, grass clippings, organic matter, litter, etc. This can negatively impact the health of aquatic plants and animals. It's important for rainwater to soak in near where it falls so it can quickly help recharge groundwater aquifers.

## BLVD RAIN GARDEN PROGRAM (FOR STREET RECONSTRUCTION PROJECTS ONLY)

- Sign up for *rain garden* on the street restoration project questionnaire. An engineer will evaluate your location.
- During street reconstruction, a contractor will dig a depression and prepare the soil.
- After construction is completed, residents will select one of six different garden designs
- After construction is completed, residents plant their gardens. The City provides plants and hosts a planting day with demonstrations.
- Once the garden is planted, residents are responsible for maintaining them.
- For residents not undergoing a street restoration project, please look into grant opportunities listed on this brochure.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### **Will I pay less if I choose not to have a garden?**

No. Having or not having a rain garden will not change the amount of your street assessment. The rain gardens are such a significant part of the stormwater system that they are included in the project costs.

### **What if we are physically unable to plant and maintain a garden?**

If you are elderly or physically unable to plant your garden, the city will help find volunteers to plant it. But the routine maintenance will be your responsibility.

### **Will the garden be a breeding ground for mosquitoes?**

No. The gardens are constructed to infiltrate in less than 48 hours after a rain event. Mosquito larvae require 7-12 days of standing water before they emerge.