

Rain Garden Standards

These standards must be followed in order to receive cost-sharing through LLLPRD. However, if you are not requiring cost-share money for your rain garden, we would still like you to consider following these standards as they will help ensure the success of your project.



Please use *Rain Gardens: A how-to manual for homeowners* as a guide to help construct your rain garden. Also follow the location, sizing, and plant recommendations in your restoration plan, provided by LLLPRD.

Rain Gardens Cost-Shared by LLLPRD

Eligibility

- In order to be eligible for rain garden cost-sharing, at least 50% of the total impervious surface runoff on your property must be treated with existing or proposed runoff protection practices.

Size

- Rain gardens must be 3-7 inches deep (per your provided plan) with a tolerance of + or - 2 inches.
- The surface area is to follow your provided plan, which is designed to capture 80–100% of the runoff flowing to it. However, it should not be greater than 300 square feet to effectively infiltrate water.
- The surface area of the bottom should not be less than 80% of the surface area of the whole rain garden, which includes the outside berm.

Area of Infiltration (Bottom)

- The bottom must be flat to optimize water infiltration.
- Once excavated to the designated depth, till the soil to a depth of 5 inches or excavate 5 inches and refill with the same soil to reduce compaction. Compost should be mixed with the existing soil in areas of gravel or heavy soils.
- No heavy equipment can not be driven inside the rain garden area during or after construction.
- Water should be diverted away from a newly constructed rain garden for a month to allow the new plants to establish root systems and stabilize the soil.
- Plants must be chosen from lists of native plants supplied by LLLPRD.
- No other structures such as flag poles, benches, or satellite dishes shall be placed in the rain garden.

Berm (Outer Edge)

- The berm must be level on all sides of the rain garden, allowing overflow to disperse as sheet flow and avoiding channelization and erosion.
- The ground that makes up the berm needs to be compacted with a manual tamper or machine.
- When rain garden construction is complete, the berm should be covered with a permanent, non-erosive, permeable surface such as sod, native plants, or rocks.