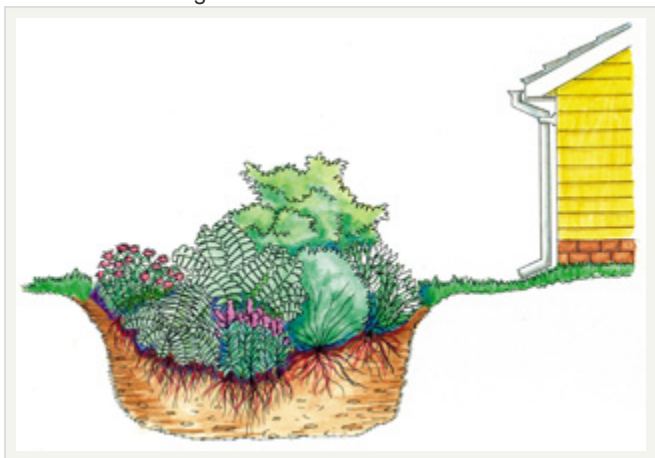




## Rainscaping: A Beautiful Solution to Water Pollution

### Rain gardens

Rain gardens are landscapes built to capture storm water. Rain gardens use shallow depressions to slow down the water, spread it out over an area and soak into the ground rather than channel the water into storm sewers and ultimately into nearby waterways.



### Why plant a Rain Garden?

- Less water usage means lower water bills.
- Don't waste drinking water. In an urban setting such as the District of Columbia, more than 40 percent of the potable water supply is used for gardening and other outdoor activities.
- Rain gardens capture runoff and slowly filter out common pollutants and sediment.
- Less storm water runoff--lower volumes of erosion-causing runoff and associated pollutants running into our street drains and the Chesapeake Bay.
- With appropriate plants, rain gardens provide attractive habitats for birds, butterflies and beneficial insects.

### Rain Barrels

Rain barrels are a centuries-old technique to collect rainwater from rooftops. Rain barrels attach to the downspouts at your home or business and help to keep our ground water and streams clean. You can find rain barrels for sale in garden centers and online.



### Why Have a Rain Barrel?

- Low-cost water conservation device that can be used to reduce runoff.
- Help delay and reduce the peak runoff flow rates.
- Clean water for healthy gardens and lawns.
- Help delay the need to expand sewage treatment facilities.

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**Source URL:** <http://usb.gov/rainscaping-beautiful-solution-water-pollution>