Phase II Stormwater Program

Summer 2016

Rain Gardens Help Limit Stormwater Pollution

A rain garden is a planted depression garden bed that collects and absorbs rain water runoff from impervious surfaces like roofs, driveways, walkways, parking lots, and compacted lawn areas. Rain water infiltrates into the soil and evaporates over a short period of time.

Rain Garden Facts:

- Rain gardens can help filter polluted stormwater and stop rain water runoff that may be carrying harmful pollutants into our streams, rivers, and lakes.
- Rain gardens allow water to drain back into the ground, filtering out pollutants and refilling important underground aquifers. Plants and soil work together to absorb and filter pollutants and return cleaner water through the ground to nearby streams.
- Rain gardens also reduce flooding by sending water back underground, rather than into the streets.
- When planted with native plants, rain gardens can provide important habitat for birds, butterflies and other wildlife.

For more facts and information about water gardens and all you need to know about starting one, visit sweetwateralliance.org or visit the Alabama cooperative extension system at aces.edu