



The Marion County Soil and Water Conservation District

Our Mission is to assist Marion County land users in conserving soil, water, & related natural resources by providing:

- **Technical Assistance**
- **Financial Assistance**
- **Educational Resources**



This is the SWCD's 50th year of working with residents on natural resource conservation!

District Staff Available to Help



John Hazlett
District Manager



Kevin Allison
Soil Health
Specialist



Julie Farr
Resource
Conservationist
(Part-Time)



Cheyenne Hoffa
Urban
Conservationist

The District partners with federal, state, and local resource agencies that include:

- MC Health Department
- USDA-NRCS
- ISDA
- IDEM
- IDNR
- NACD



Drainage Assistance

The District actively assists private landowners with:



- **Understanding City's role in drainage & their own responsibility (Working with DPW & Citizens Energy Group)**
- **Providing preliminary surveys, soils & other natural resource conservation information**
- **Recommended conservation & drainage solution options**
- **Providing "List of Service Providers" & other educational information**

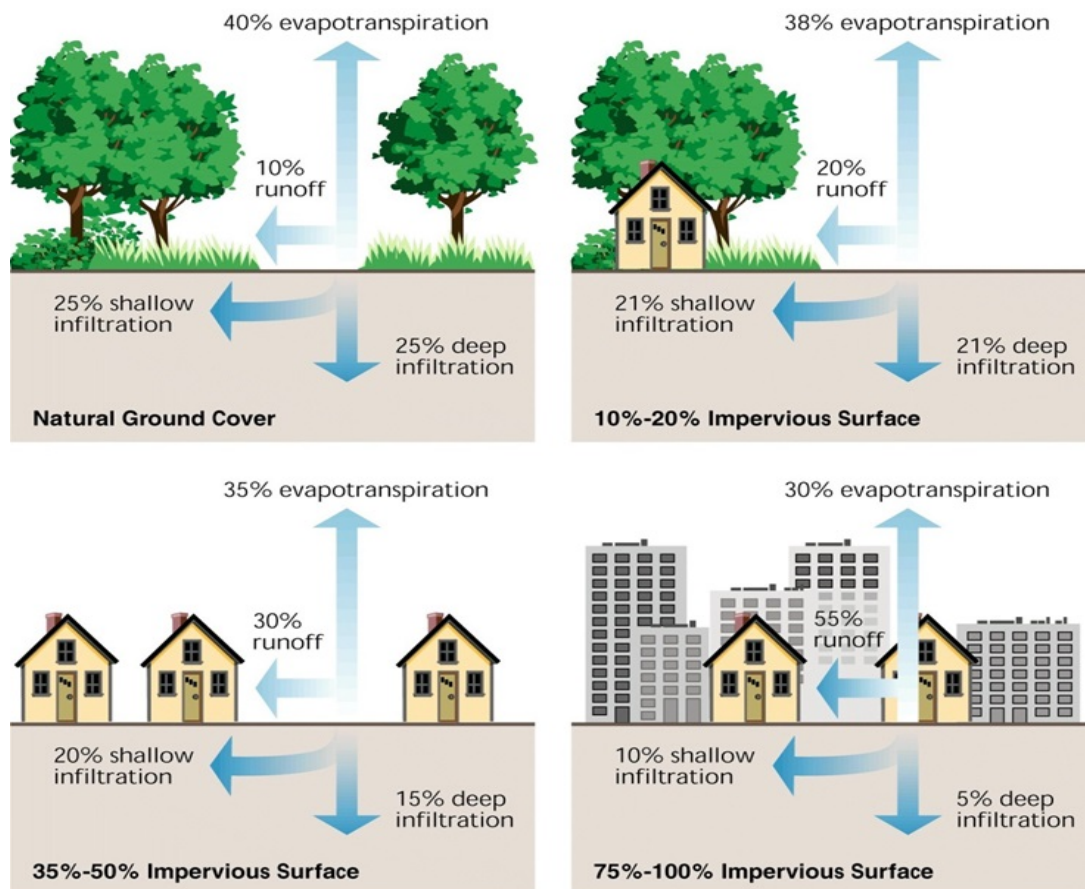
Urgent Resource Concerns

With more land development & more impervious cover in our watersheds comes:

- more stormwater management issues
- increased runoff
- increased erosion
- water quality & quantity problems
- loss of green space
- loss of wildlife habitat



Predeveloped vs. Developed Conditions



Stream Restoration: Principles, Processes and Practices (FISRW 1998)

Improving Onsite Stormwater Management



Helping homeowners install & maintain rain gardens, bioswales, etc.

Most land is private, so voluntary efforts by citizens is vital for sustainability

Encouraging residents to use rain barrels



Residential Rain Gardens

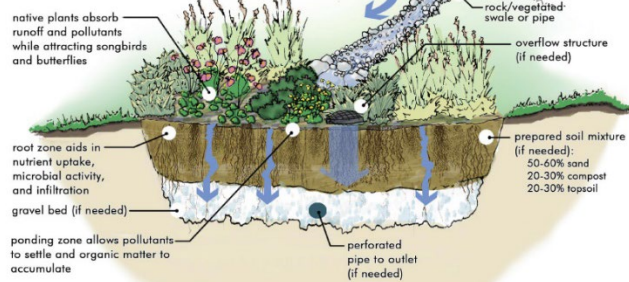
What is a rain garden?

The purpose of a rain garden is to use natural systems to improve water quality in the **watershed** and nearby bodies of water. A rain garden is a planted depression that allows water runoff from impervious surfaces like roofs, driveways, walkways, parking lots, and compacted lawns the opportunity to be filtered and absorbed into the ground. This reduces the negative impacts of stormwater runoff by creating a designated area on-site where the stormwater can soak into the ground over time.

RESIDENTIAL RAIN GARDEN

(Keep 10 feet away from house or any building foundations)

source: <http://www.eaglecreekwatershed.org>



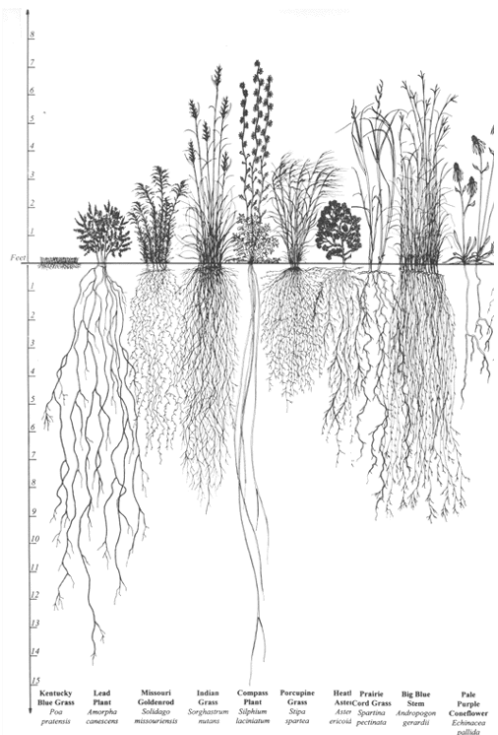
Why have a rain garden?

Rain gardens help to manage storm water by directing water away from building foundations and basements; they enhance the beauty of yards and neighborhoods, and when combined with other yard conservation methods such as native planting, can provide more naturalized areas on a lot, deducing time and cost needed for maintenance, helping homeowners as well as the environment.

www.urbanpatch.org



Native Plant Structure



Root Systems of Prairie Plants



THRIVE Plan Goals – Rain Gardens



BUILT ENVIRONMENT

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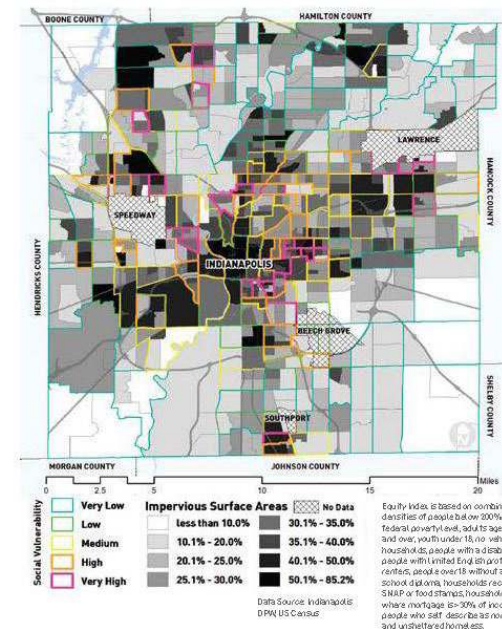
OUR PLAN FOR 2025

BUILT ENVIRONMENT OBJECTIVE 2

All new infrastructure is designed, built and maintained to be resilient to the anticipated impacts of climate change, and investments are prioritized based on the 2018 Vulnerability Assessment.

ACTION	PROPOSED IMPLEMENTERS AND PARTNERS	INITIAL COSTS TO IMPLEMENTERS	ONGOING COSTS TO IMPLEMENTERS	POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCE(S)	IMPLEMENTATION BENEFITS:				
					Equity Benefits: Reducing Disparities	Positive Public Health Impacts	Potential for Net Job Creation	GHG Reduction Potential	Increased Resilience for Socially Vulnerable Areas/ Populations
BE:2A Systematically integrate climate change projections into all future capital projects by 2020, ensuring new infrastructure can withstand current and projected impacts.	DPW, CEG, DMD	\$\$	\$\$\$	Evaluation of current permits and fees	●	●	●	●	●
BE:2B Improve onsite stormwater retention programs by incentivizing rain barrels, rain gardens and green roofs. Register 500 residential and nonresidential properties in the stormwater credit program by 2022.	OOS, DMD, BNS, DPW, KIB, MCSWCD, Purdue Extension	\$\$	\$\$\$	Evaluation of current permits and fees	●	●	●	●	●

Impervious Surface Areas



Thrive Indianapolis

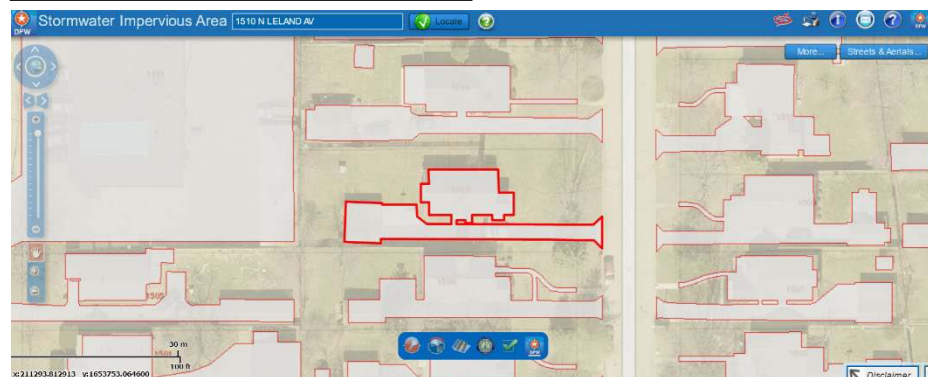
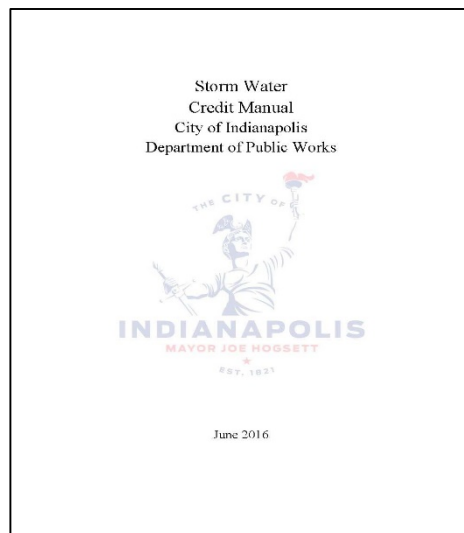
Design Considerations



- Location
- Design depth and soil types
- Typical size and contributing drainage area
- Plant palette and maintenance



City Registration and Credit Program



REGISTRATION FORM

Please complete this form and send it to raingardens@indy.gov or mail a copy to 200 E. Washington Street Rm 2460 Indianapolis, IN 46204 Attn: Office of Sustainability Rain Garden and Native Planting Area Program.

- Name of Property Owner: _____
- Street address of property where rain garden and/or native planting area will be located:
Street Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
- Property Owner Address (if different from address of proposed rain garden and/or native planting area program location)
Street Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Parcel Number: _____
- Email Address: _____
- Check the appropriate registration:
 - New Rain Garden
 - Existing Rain Garden
 - New Native Planting Area
 - Existing Native Planting Area
 - Re-Registering a Rain Garden (every 5 years)
 - Re-Registering a Native Planting Area (every 5 years)
- Area of rain garden or native planting area (approximate square feet): _____
- If this is a rain garden, is it at least ten (10) feet from the house: Yes ___ No ___
- If this is a rain garden, number of downspouts directed to it: _____
- Have you identified a location for a City of Indianapolis Rain Garden and Native Planting Area Program sign on your sketch in 10a: Yes ___ No ___

Mayor Ballard launched SustainIndy and created the Office of Sustainability in October 2008. SustainIndy is a bold and innovative enterprise aimed at delivering long-term cost savings to the City, building the local economy, improving our quality of life and enhancing our environmental and public health. Its efforts are designed to aggressively move Indianapolis forward in making it one of the most sustainable cities in the Midwest.

Websites/Resources

- www.marionswcd.org/water-management/
- www.centralohioraingardens.org
- www.indy.gov/activity/stormwater-user-rate-and-credit-manual
- www.ngicp.org/project/body-of-knowledge/
- www.growindiananatives.org





Questions?

Contact Us!

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- John-hazlett@iaswcd.org

