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

Improving Onsite Stormwater Management

Encouraging residents to use rain barrels

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

Most land is private, so voluntary efforts by citizens is vital for sustainability
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
(source: http://www.marioncountyswcd.org)
- native plants absorb runoff and pollutants while attracting songbirds and butterflies
- root zone aids in nutrient uptake, microbial activity, and infiltration
- gravel bed (if needed)
- overflow structure (if needed)
- prepared soil mixture (if needed): 50-60% sand, 20-30% compost, 20-30% topsoil
- drain pipe to curbside (if needed)

Why have a rain garden?
Rain gardens help manage stormwater by directing water away from building foundations and basements, they enhance the beauty of yards and neighborhoods, and when combined with other green infrastructure methods such as rainwater harvesting, they provide other ecosystem services like habitat and food for birds and butterflies. Rain gardens are also low maintenance, helping homeowners as well as the environment.

www.urbanpatch.org
Native Plant Structure

Root Systems of Prairie Plants

www.allegancd.org
THRIIVE Plan Goals – Rain Gardens

BUILT ENVIRONMENT

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 2016 Vulnerability Assessment.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTION</th>
<th>PROPOSED IMPLEMENTORS AND PARTNERS</th>
<th>INITIAL COSTS TO IMPLEMENTERS</th>
<th>ONGOING COSTS TO IMPLEMENTERS</th>
<th>POTENTIAL SOURCES</th>
<th>IMPLEMENTATION BENEFITS:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BE2A</td>
<td>DFW, DEG, OMD</td>
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<td>Evaluation of current permits and fees</td>
<td>Equity in Bedding Improvements</td>
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<td>Systematically integrate climate change projections into all future capital projects by 2020, ensuring new infrastructure can withstand current and projected impacts.</td>
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<tr>
<td>BE2B</td>
<td>OGS, DNG, BNS, DPA, KHS, MBC, Furdus Extension</td>
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<td>Evaluation of current permits and fees</td>
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<td>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.</td>
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Design Considerations

- Location
- Design depth and soil types
- Typical size and contributing drainage area
- Plant palette and maintenance
City Registration and Credit Program
Websites/Resources

- www.marionswcd.org/water-management/
- www.centralohioraingardens.org
- www.ngicp.org/project/body-of-knowledge/
- www.growindiananatives.org
Questions?

Contact Us!

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