

April

April Showers Bring May Flowers: Reduce Stormwater Runoff

This April, Allen County Partnership for Water Quality (ACPWQ) is challenging residents to help slow down stormwater runoff by creating solutions to let rainwater stay put, instead of rushing down storm drains. There are numerous ways to achieve this goal, but for the month of April, we are going to be focused on rain gardens. Rain gardens are a depressed area in one's landscape that collects rainwater from impervious surfaces like roofs, sidewalks, or driveways allowing this water time to be absorbed into the ground or used by plants.



These spaces can be created with relative ease in your yard! They help beautify your lawn while also reducing garden maintenance. We suggest that you use native plants and grasses when developing your garden. These plants will not only be more resistant to our local weather, but they also serve as great habitats for birds and butterflies.

Many people fear that these gardens will create habitat for mosquitos and other unwanted pests due to the

misconception that rain gardens involve long-term standing water. However, if your garden is constructed correctly, you should actually see a **decrease** in mosquitos, other unwanted pests, and standing water!

Rain gardens help to prevent flooding downstream, filter out pollutants that the water picked up, and recharge local groundwater making them a great way to help improve water quality in your area! If you are interested in learning more, consider attending one of the workshops provide by the City of Fort Wayne's Catching Rain Green Infrastructure Initiative! For more information, visit their website at www.catchingrainfw.org.