



Raingardens:

Green Solutions for Urban Pollution

What is a Raingarden?

As rain water flows over hard, impervious surfaces like streets and roofs, it picks up pollutants and carries them directly into our lakes & rivers through the city storm sewer system. This results in very poor water quality for people and wildlife.

A raingarden is a shallow bowl shaped garden that captures rain water before it can flow into our streets and then directly to the river through storm drains. This garden has deep rooted native plants that help to slow water and give it time to soak into the ground where it belongs. To help with this task, we have also installed dry wells to increase the volume of water this garden is capable of capturing.

Benefits of Raingardens:

- Stop rain water runoff from flowing into the Mississippi River
- Deep roots of native plants encourage infiltration of water into ground
- Pollutants are filtered from water
- Provide food & habitat for pollinators
- Prevent flooding

Black Forest Raingarden

The Black Forest raingarden incorporates the artwork of The Chicago Avenue Fire Arts Center to collect water from the roof and carry it gracefully into the planting area. The corten steel and stainless steel structure is designed to celebrate the rain water runoff that was once a large flooding issue for the Black Forest patio and banquet center.

