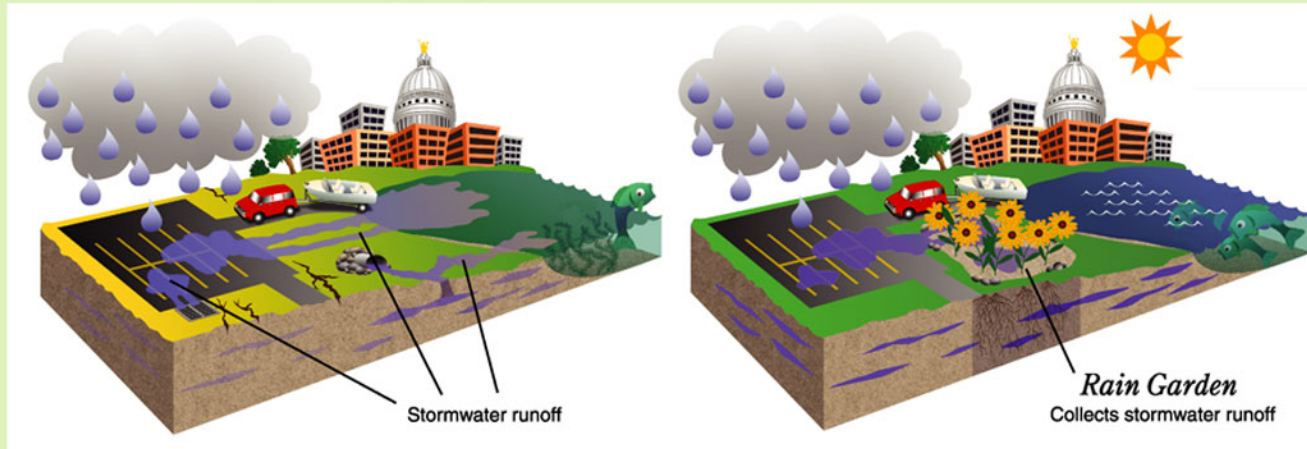


Native Prairie Rain Garden Project

How to improve Dane County lakes and watersheds with native plants.

The Urban Hydrology Cycle



Large amounts of water run off of parking lots, streets and sidewalks, carrying harmful pollutants to area lakes and streams.

Rain Gardens are natural water quality systems – collecting runoff, filtering out pollutants and helping protect our lakes and streams. They allow about 30% more water to soak into the ground.

Rain Garden

Rain gardens are landscaped areas, planted with native grasses and wildflowers that replace areas of lawn. They filter runoff from parking lots and paved areas, reduce flooding and recharge groundwater by allowing water to soak into (not off of) the ground, and help prevent pollutants from washing into our lakes.

Native plants, with their deep root systems, allow water to soak into the ground better than turf grass. They are very hardy to cold winters, disease and insects and help create habitat for birds and butterflies.



Turf and lawn root systems are only 2-4 inches deep

Prairie plant root systems can extend 10 feet

The native plants in this garden once flourished in the prairies, wetlands and woodlands of southern Wisconsin, before European Settlement.



Illustrations: Chris Whalen

Illustrations: Roger Daleiden / Atomic Studios

This project made possible by a donation from the Graham-Martin Foundation.

The plants in this garden were grown by Agrecol Corporation of Madison, Wisconsin.

©2005 Agrecol Corporation



GRAHAM-MARTIN FOUNDATION



The Plant Dane! Grant Program was coordinated by the Madison Area Municipal Storm Water Partnership, www.myfairlakes.com