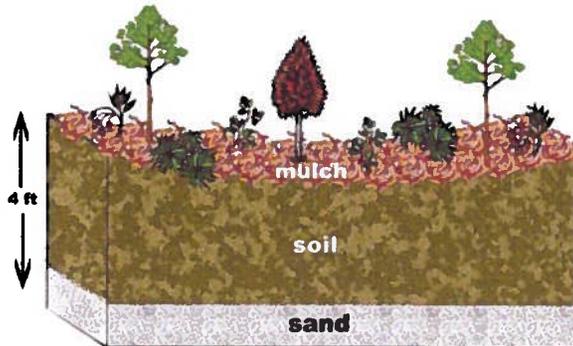


How Do Rain Gardens Work?

Stormwater is directed to the rain garden by a downspout, infiltration trench, swale, or simply by the slope of the land. The rain slowly filters through the layers of plants, mulch, and soil. The topmost layer of mulch absorbs water and helps to store water for the plants.



Rain gardens **are not** designed to “pond” water, generally the water will infiltrate into the ground in 1-2 days.



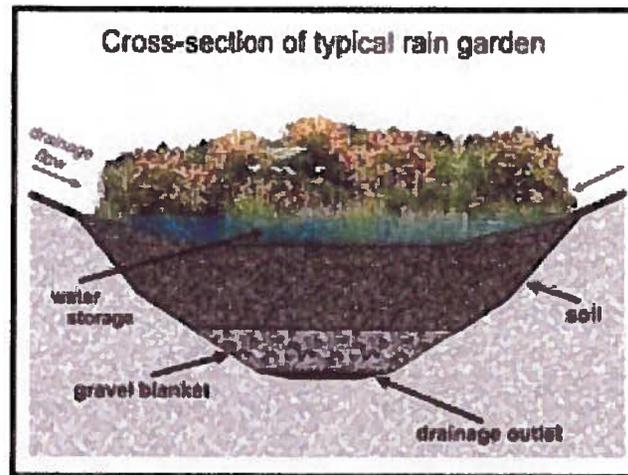
Are Rain Gardens Expensive?

Installation of rain gardens does not have to be expensive. For many homeowners, the dirt work involved can be accomplished with a shovel and wheelbarrow. In some cases, rental of a small backhoe will make the job much easier.

Cost associated with rain gardens include:

- Landscaping
- Soil mixture
- Necessary plants

The Homer SWCD can help offset this cost by up to 50% for qualifying landowners.



Are Rain Gardens Hard to Maintain?

The beauty of a rain garden is that it is so easy and inexpensive to maintain. Some care will be needed initially, including weeding and perhaps watering, but once the plants are established they are pretty much on autopilot.



Maintenance-free rain garden installed at the Homer City Hall.

What is a rain garden?

Rain gardens create functional landscapes by soaking up and filtering rainwater that runs off roofs, driveways, lawns, or other “impervious surfaces.” After a rain event, a rain garden collects runoff and allows it to slowly percolate back into the ground, filtering out pollutants carried in the runoff and then cycling the water back into local waterways or groundwater. Rain gardens can also help decrease drainage problems and reduce localized flooding.

Rain gardens have the added benefit of creating habitat for local wildlife such as birds or beneficial insects. Rain gardens are typically planted with native plants and grasses selected according to their moisture requirements and ability to tolerate pollutants. Rain gardens can be easily located in natural depressions.

Do you want to help clean
local rainwater runoff?

Call us about the Rain
Garden Cost Share
Program



907-235-8177 ext 5
4014 Lake St., Ste 201A
Homer, AK 99603

Making Gardens To Hold Rain!!



A residential rain garden in Homer.

A Best Management Practice to manage stormwater runoff, eliminate pollutants, and improve local water quality.

Homer Soil and Water offers a Rain Garden cost-share program for private landowners and businesses.