

DEMO RAIN GARDEN

Knox County

PURDUE EXTENSION RAINSCAPING EDUCATION PROGRAM

Background Information

In November of 2021, a rain garden was established at Ouabache Trails Park which is a County Park located in Vincennes, Indiana. This was a partnership with the Knox County Parks and Recreation Department, Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (CISMA), and Soil and Water Conservation District. There is a circle drive and this garden is in the center of that and is situated between the Nature Center and their shop area. This area was previously a grassy area and in the past there was also a small vegetable garden in part of it. This site was chosen in order to collect some of the storm water coming from the nature center, shop, and the road. It is also a site that is visible to the public and will hopefully be used as parts of programs offered there and as a conversation piece. This will hopefully decrease the amount of water that stands on the road during rain events. When conducting the infiltration test it was found that there are two different soil types in the garden area and one drained more rapidly than the other. In order to overcome that the rain garden has a 4" deep pool that slopes down to an 8" pool. There is also a fairly shaded area so species were selected that could tolerate part shade. All of the plants are native plants to Indiana and provided by the Knox County CISMA. The Knox County Parks Department provided the land, excavation and mulch. There were two planting days with 17 volunteers over both days for approximately 25 manhours to complete planting. Approximately 400 plants were installed in this garden.



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Garden Design: Plantings and Information

Plant Scientific Name	Common Name
<i>Penstemon digitalis</i>	Foxglove Beardtongue
<i>Lobelia siphilitica</i>	Great Blue Lobelia
<i>Baptisia australis</i>	Blue False Indigo
<i>Carex vulpinoidea</i>	Fox Sedge
<i>Carex frankii</i>	Frank's Sedge
<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>	Cardinal Flower
<i>Verbena hastate</i>	Blue Vervain
<i>Asclepias incarnate</i>	Swamp Milkweed
<i>Hibiscus moscheutos</i>	Swamp Rose Mallow
<i>Senna hebecarpa</i>	Northern Wild Senna
<i>Chasmanthium latifolium</i>	Northern Sea Oats
<i>Iris virginica shrevei</i>	Blue Flag Iris
<i>Eupatorium colestinum</i>	Blue Mistflower



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Maintenance Plan: Establishment Period

- Weeding-every 2-4 weeks for first 6 months
- Track progress of garden and water and replace plants as needed

Maintenance Plan: General Maintenance

- Fertilizing: Not necessary
- Watering: As needed, during dry spells in the summer
- Weeding: As necessary, especially check in Spring
- Mulch: As necessary, check yearly

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Maintenance Plan: Seasonal Maintenance

- Year round: Weeding
- Spring: Weeding, prune stems back, add mulch (if needed)
- Summer: Watering, as needed
- Fall: Prune tall stems back
- Winter: N/A

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Resource Contact

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About the Purdue Rainscaping Education Program

The Purdue Rainscaping Education Program offers state-wide training for Purdue Master Gardeners, conservation agencies and organizations, stormwater professionals, and landscape companies and consultants.

The two day workshop sessions cover an introduction to rainscaping and rain gardens with specific modules for rain garden site selection, plant selection and garden design, installation, maintenance, and community engagement.

Workshops include hands-on activities, interactive discussions, and field trips to community rainscaping projects. Participants also gain experience through creation of a demonstration rain garden with community partners in a public space.

