

# DEMO RAIN GARDEN

La Porte County

PURDUE EXTENSION  
**RAINSCAPING  
EDUCATION  
PROGRAM**

## Background Information

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In June of 2022, Purdue Extension, Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant, and the City of La Porte worked together to establish a rain garden. It was part of a larger effort to build resilience in La Porte County through the updating of ordinances and installation of green infrastructure.

The site is between a parking lot, road, and small park composed mainly of gravel paths with a few flowerbeds. It was chosen because it is a low point between the three areas, which generate a significant amount of stormwater runoff. It is also located in a heavily traveled area near Town Hall, giving it great visibility and opportunities to be used educationally.



An engineer from the City of La Porte and local MS4 Coordinator worked with Purdue Extension and Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant to create the design. The site was professionally excavated while the City's Street and Parks Department worked to further prepare the site with soil amendments and mulch. There was one planting day with volunteers from the City's Engineering, Wastewater, Stormwater, and Parks Departments, the La Porte County Library, the La Porte County Soil and Water, the City of La Porte's Sustainability Commission, and other community members. They first attended an educational session on rainscaping before heading to the rain garden and gaining hands on experience planting the garden. Only plants native to Indiana were used in the planting. Both shade tolerant and sun loving plants were chosen due to trees nearby providing some shade to the site. All plants were suited to handle water conditions within a rain garden.



# Demo Rain Garden: La Porte County

## Garden Design: Plantings and Information

Plant Scientific Name	Common Name
<i>Aquilegia canadensis</i>	Little Bluestem
<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>	Cardinal Flower
<i>Echinacea purpurea</i>	Purple Coneflower
<i>Iris virginica shrevei</i>	Blue Flag Iris
<i>Symphotrichum novae-angliae</i>	New England Aster
<i>Sporobolus heterolepis</i>	Prairie Dropseed
<i>Citrus bergamia</i>	Bergamot
<i>Chrysopsis</i>	Golden Alexander
<i>Asclepias incarnata</i>	Marsh Milkweed
<i>Oligoneuron riddellii</i>	Riddell's Goldenrod
<i>Liatris spicata</i>	Dense Blazingstar



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## Maintenance Plan: Establishment Period

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- Weeding: Every 2-4 weeks for the first 6 months
- Watering: As needed for 30 minutes at a time up to one month after installation

## Maintenance Plan: General Maintenance

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- Cleanliness: Remove debris every two weeks
- Mulching: Check monthly and add mulch as needed to maintain depth
- Weeding: Once a month
- Watering: As needed during dry periods lasting 1 week or more

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## Maintenance Plan: Seasonal Maintenance

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- Spring: Prune dead vegetation and plants that are too large, replace dead plants
- Summer: Check areas for erosion and repair as needed
- Fall: Remove diseased plants

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## Resource Contact

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## About the Purdue Rainscaping Education Program

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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.

