

DEMO RAIN GARDEN

Kane County, IL

PURDUE EXTENSION
**RAINSCAPING
EDUCATION
PROGRAM**

Background Information

In May of 2024, a rain garden was established at the University of Illinois Extension Office located in St. Charles, IL. There is a grassy area between two sections of parking lot, bounded by a ditch with sharply sloped sides on one end and the Kane County Fairgrounds on the other side. This area of grass is in full sun, frequently wet and the ditch has continuous flow for most of the year.

This site was chosen to help mitigate the stormwater flow from impervious surfaces at the Fairgrounds and Extension office while also improving the appearance of the area. There was already a gentle slope on all sides, creating a sort of "bowl" shape which directed water to the ditch. This site is visible to the public and Randall Rd. and will be used for educational purposes, as well.

The site was mulched with regular, double-ground hardwood mulch from a local vendor. Plants were selected from Midwest Groundcovers, a local nursery with a native plant division, who also donated a number of plants for the project. All plants are native to the region. Plants were installed by the 17 students who were part of a Rainscaping classed offered by Extension.



Demo Rain Garden: Kane County

Garden Design: Plantings and Information

Plant Scientific Name	Common Name	Number Used
<i>Sporobolus heterolepis</i>	Prairie dropseed	38
<i>Carex muskingumensis</i>	Palm sedge	76
<i>Carex vulpinoidea</i>	Fox sedge	76
<i>Aquilegia canadensis</i>	Wild Columbine	10
<i>Symphotrichum "Purple Dome"</i>	N.E. Aster, "Purple Dome"	4
<i>Echinacea purpurea</i>	Purple coneflower	10
<i>Coreopsis palmata</i>	Stiff Coreopsis	7
<i>Liatris pycnostachya</i>	Prairie Blazingstar	4
<i>Iris virginica</i> var. <i>shrevei</i>	Southern Blue Flag Iris	10
<i>Asclepius incarnata</i>	Swamp milkweed	4
<i>Lobelia siphilitica</i>	Great Blue Lobelia	10
<i>Callirhoe involucratata</i>	Purple poppy mallow	4
<i>Ratibida pinnata</i>	Yellow coneflower	12
<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>	Cardinal flower	7
<i>Heuchera richardsonii</i>	Prairie Alumroot	8
<i>Helenium autumnale</i>	Sneezeweed	5
<i>Baptisia australis</i>	Wild indigo	2



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Maintenance Plan: Establishment Period

- Weekly weeding through fall
- Watering as needed through fall
- Track progress of garden and water and replace plants as needed

Maintenance Plan: General Maintenance

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

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Maintenance Plan: Seasonal Maintenance

- Year Round: Weeding
- Spring: Weeding, prune dead vegetation and overgrown plants, add mulch and new plants (if needed)
- Summer: Watering as needed, continue to weed
- Fall: Remove diseased plants, leave most leaves and plants
- Winter: Remove any trash or debris that accumulates in garden

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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.

