

# DEMO RAIN GARDEN

Noble County

PURDUE EXTENSION  
**RAINSCAPING  
EDUCATION  
PROGRAM**

## Background Information

The rain garden is a small demonstration garden behind the Albion branch of the Noble County Public Library. The rain garden may diminish flooding in certain areas of the property. Additionally, this rain garden could reduce salts and other pollutants from the nearby parking lot through filtration. This site on the property was also chosen because the location is highly-visible from inside the library. This 300-square foot garden will serve as an educational tool, inspiring others to consider installing their own rain garden.

Due to a large rain event two days prior and another rain the night before, installation happened in two parts. The first installation was completed by Rainscaping Education Program participants and the second half was completed by the Noble County Master Gardeners on a later date.



The site prior to installation

Funding and support for the project included the Noble County Master Gardeners, the NIPSCO Environmental Action Grant, the Amelia Frehse Charitable Trust Grant, and Friends of the Noble County Public Library. Plants were donated by Purdue Extension Master Gardeners, Blue Fox Farms, and Blue River Native Nursery. OnSite Tree Services donated the site prep work and mulch.



Rainscaping Education Program participants on installation day

# Demo Rain Garden: Noble County

## Garden Design: Plantings and Information

Scientific Name	Common Name
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Common yarrow
<i>Asclepias incarnata</i>	Swamp milkweed
<i>Carex vulpinoidea</i>	Fox sedge
<i>Echinacea purpurea</i>	Purple coneflower
<i>Eutrochium fistulosum</i>	Joe Pye weed
<i>Helenium autumnale</i>	Common sneezeweed
<i>Hibiscus moscheutos</i>	Swamp rose mallow
<i>Iris versicolor</i>	Blue flag iris
<i>Liatris spicata</i>	Great blue lobelia
<i>Lobelia siphilitica</i>	Great blue lobelia
<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>	Black-eyed Susans
<i>Senna hebecarpa</i>	Wild senna
<i>Silphium perfoliatum</i>	Cup plant
<i>Sisyrinchium angustifolium</i>	Blue-eyed grass
<i>Thalictrum dasycarpum</i>	Meadow rue
<i>Tradescantia virginiana</i>	Virginia spiderwort
<i>Verbena hastata</i>	Blue vervain
<i>Vernonia gigantea</i>	Tall ironweed
<i>Zizia aurea</i>	Golden Alexander



Flexibility is important. The original design was updated many times and adjusted again when donated plugs and plants were delivered on the day of planting.

The final design utilized a tiered approach. Water enters from the hill to the east and south. The “top” water garden overflows to the “lower” water garden.



# Demo Rain Garden: Noble County

## Maintenance Plan: Establishment Period

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The garden should be weeded every few weeks for the first 6 months, then once a month after as needed.

Large rocks will be placed at the front to give a visual buffer from the parking lot.

Tracking progress of the garden:

- Label plants so workers know what plants should or should not be removed
- Take photos of the garden annually to show maturation of the garden over time

## Maintenance Plan: General Maintenance

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### Plant Care

- High levels of phosphorus (P) and potassium (K) were shown in the preliminary soil test. At planting, we added ammonium sulfate and elemental sulfur to pull down the pH of 7.2. No need for additional fertilizer unless a soil test reflects otherwise.
- Dead head as needed to control unwanted spread.
- Prune dead vegetation and plants that have grown too large.

### Watering

- Water as needed, especially in the first year.
- Once plants are established, watering should not be necessary except during prolonged dry periods.

### Weeding

- During the first few years, weeding should take place monthly as needed. Over time, plants will fill in and weeding will not be as necessary.
- Hand pulling of weeds should be sufficient.
- Weeding will be provided by the Noble County Master Gardeners with support from the library maintenance staff.

### Mulch

- Approximately 3 inches should be maintained in the garden. We used a hardwood shredded mulch.

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## Contacts

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Purdue Extension Master Gardeners from Noble County finished installation

## 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.

