



# RainSmart Makeover!

## Rain Garden Cost-Share Application



Flooded basements, flooded streets, and dirty creeks share a common cause, and that's too much dirty water runoff during big storms. To help you do your part, Friends of the Rouge is pleased to offer up to 12 RainSmart Makeovers: a 50% cost-share rain garden installation for front yards and public spaces. We provide you design expertise and lead volunteers to install your rain garden, and afterwards you reimburse us for half the cost of plants and supplies. Get your front yard a RainSmart Makeover!

### ELIGIBILITY

**Who:** private sites like homes, common areas in Homeowner's Associations, churches, non-profits, etc.

**Geographic area:** These cost-shares are available only for residents of the Townships of Canton, Northville, Plymouth, and Salem and the Cities of Plymouth, Northville, and Westland whose homes (or other site) are located within the watersheds for either Johnson or Tonquish Creek. To determine whether your home or site is within either sub-watershed, please visit [TheRouge.org/jtcreeks](http://TheRouge.org/jtcreeks) to explore our online map.

### DEADLINE

Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis until all funds are expended. Gardens must be installed by Fall of 2019. It is strongly recommended that applications be submitted by February 2019 for consideration. Applications received after May 2019 are unlikely to be viable.

### QUESTIONS?

Contact [RainSmart@therouge.org](mailto:RainSmart@therouge.org)



This project has been funded wholly or in part through Michigan Department of Environmental Quality's Nonpoint Source Program by the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

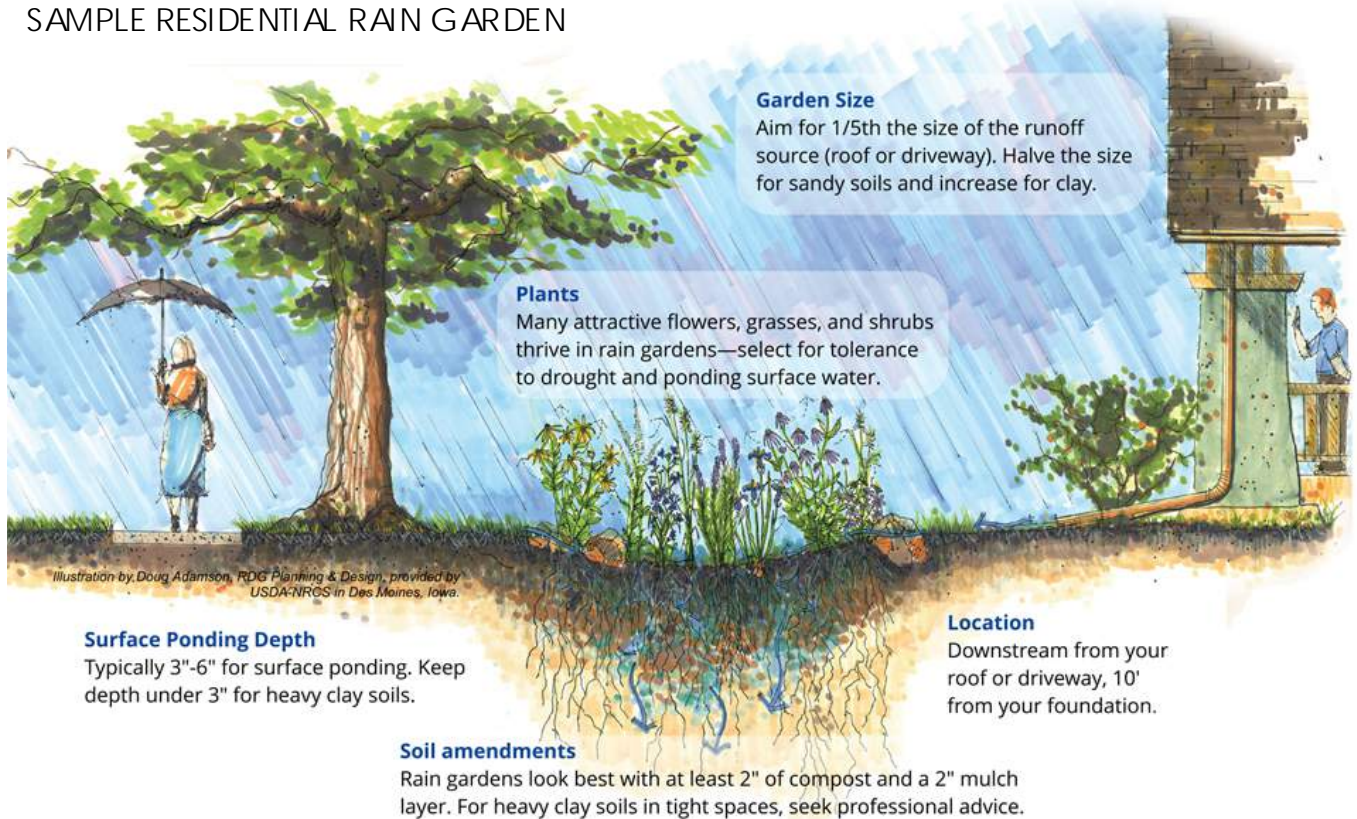
## WHAT IS A RAIN GARDEN? IT'S A GARDEN WITH A JOB.

A rain garden has a job to do—controlling puddles and keeping basements dry by soaking up water running off of roofs, driveways, and other hard surfaces.

- Rain gardens usually feature attractive native wildflowers that attract butterflies and hummingbirds.
- Rain gardens help prevent floods and pollution in Rouge River, too.
- They capture water that might otherwise carry lawn chemicals and mud into the river.

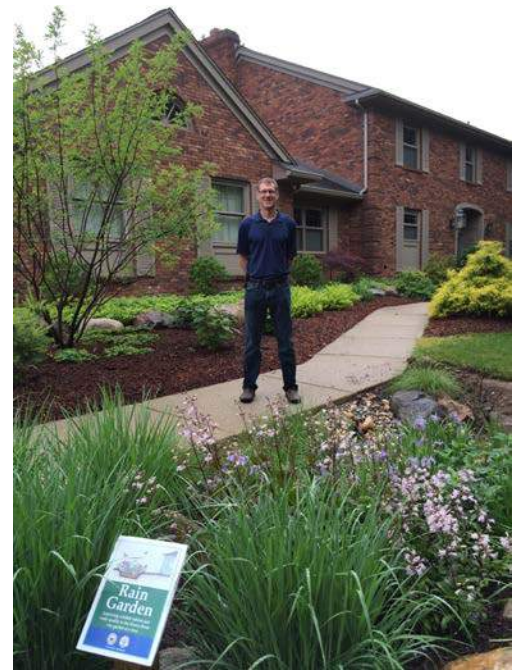
Visit [TheRouge.org/RainSmart](http://TheRouge.org/RainSmart) to learn more about rain gardens, to find extensive DIY design support (including design manuals and plants lists), and a catalog of local professionals who offer rain garden services.

### SAMPLE RESIDENTIAL RAIN GARDEN



# PROGRAM DETAILS

1. **Funding.** Friends of the Rouge has funding from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality to support rain garden installations on private property in the Johnson Creek and Tonquish Creek subwatersheds of the Rouge (which run through Plymouth, Canton, Salem, Northville, and Westland). The garden must be located within the drainage area for Johnson or Tonquish Creek (see map at [TheRouge.org/jtcreeks](http://TheRouge.org/jtcreeks)).
2. **Application Deadline.** Rolling review. Submission recommended by February 2019.
3. **Application Review.** Applications will be judged on the following merits:
  - a. Potential clean water benefit (manage runoff from  $\geq 1$ " storm)
  - b. Potential for community engagement, inspiration, and education (meet at least one of the criteria below)
    - i. Shared site, such as HOA common area, church, etc
    - ii. Multiple front yard applications from neighbors living on the same street
    - iii. Strong commitment to maintaining a front-yard rain garden and demonstrated capacity to follow through (it's got to look great!)
  - c. Completeness and legibility of application. Graduates of the Master Rain Gardener Training program are strongly encouraged to submit design documentation they develop as part of their studies.
  - d. Financial need



*Photo by Washtenaw County Master Rain Gardener Program*

You will be notified whether your application is approved within two weeks of submitting your application.



4. **Services.** If your application is selected, you will enjoy the following services:
  - a. Expert assistance developing or refining your rain garden site design (as needed)
  - b. All requisite supplies purchased by Friends of the Rouge (plants, compost, mulch)
  - c. Installation through a public workshop to which volunteers will be invited
  - d. The overall value of services and materials provided depends upon the garden, but is generally around \$1,200 for a typical 200 square foot rain garden.

#### 5. Friends of the Rouge's Responsibilities

- a. Purchase all required materials in advance of the workshop, for later reimbursement at 50% by the homeowner.
- b. Provide a site-specific estimate in advance of performing any work
- c. Call MISS DIG before performing excavation
- d. Organize and advertise your installation
- e. Provide courteous, professional, and insightful assistance in designing and installing your rain garden



*Photo by Washtenaw County Master Rain Gardener Program*

## 6. Your Responsibilities

- a. Within 30 days following the rain garden installation, reimburse Friends of the Rouge at 50% of the cost of the workshop (typically \$150 to \$750 out of pocket, depending on your budget and goals). You will be asked to sign a project budget, template provided below, before work begins to ensure that you know your obligation.
- b. Allow volunteers who have signed liability wavers to work on your property, and provide limited access to your home to use restrooms.
- c. Commit to recruit at least 5 volunteers from your network to attend the installation.
- d. Provide light snacks and refreshments for volunteers at your own expense
- e. Commit to maintain the garden for its first three years, and to provide light maintenance for at least two additional years. If properly maintained during the first three years, rain gardens become low-maintenance gardens requiring minimal attention. Maintenance includes:
  - i. **Year 1 watering:** For the first month, water the garden twice a week providing at least 1/2" of water each time across the garden space. After the first month, ensure the garden gets 1" of water each week. During dry, hot periods of a typical summer, revert to twice-weekly watering.
  - ii. **Year 1 Weeding:** Weeding the garden weekly for the first month, alternating weeks during the second month, and monthly thereafter until the garden completes its first year.
  - iii. **Years 2 + 3 Weeding:** Weeding the garden once in the spring, once in the fall, and during the summer as needed.
  - iv. **Years 4 + 5 Weeding:** Weeding as needed, typically once in the spring and once in the fall.
- f. Proudly display an attractive sign identifying your garden as a rain garden!
- g. Provide " After" photographs highlighting your garden for each year over five years.

## 7. Installation Logistics & Requirements

- a. Installations may occur in June, August, or September, and must be completed by Fall 2019.
- b. All sites will undergo a soil probe, arranged by Friends of the Rouge. The probe shall excavate a 3.5" diameter hole 4' -8' deep to confirm soil texture, identify depth to groundwater, and to note any potential for underground contamination.
- c. All installations will have a rain date scheduled, in case either of rain or unfinished work. Projects will be scoped to be completed through one 4-hour workshop attended by 15 volunteers.
- d. All installations must be sited towards the front half of the property.

8. **Cancellation.** Friends of the Rouge reserves the right to cancel selected Rain Garden Installations for any reason and without cause. Likely reasons for cancellation include but are not limited to: soil probe reveals issues with contamination or high groundwater table; project costs exceed the agreed upon budget by more than 50%; or new information comes to light that suggests that the rain garden installation is not likely to be successful. Friends of the Rouge will make every effort to work with approved applicants to resolve any issues that arise to mutual satisfaction prior to cancelling the Rain Garden Installation.



Saline Library Rain Garden. Photo by Washtenaw County Master Rain Gardener Program.

## APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY September 12<sup>th</sup> 2018

Deliver completed applications to Friends of the Rouge, at the appropriate address below (note dates), or scan and e-mail to [RainSmart@TheRouge.org](mailto:RainSmart@TheRouge.org). If you need assistance, contact Friends of the Rouge at (313) 792-9900.

For submission **prior** to August 21

Friends of the Rouge  
ATTN: Matthew Bertrand  
4901 Evergreen Rd  
EIC-128  
Dearborn, MI 48128

For submission **after** August 21

Friends of the Rouge  
ATTN: Matthew Bertrand  
650 Church St  
#209  
Plymouth, MI 48170





# APPLICATION FOR RAIN GARDEN

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization (N/A for private residences): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_, MI Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Evening Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

I would prefer to be contacted via (check all that apply):  Email  Phone

How did you learn about this program?

- Social media (Facebook/Twitter)
- Friend or family member
- Friends of the Rouge event
- Friends of the Rouge e-mail
- Radio
- TV
- Newspaper
- Local government \_\_\_\_\_
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

## ABOUT YOU

Why do you wish to have a rain garden installed?

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What kind of gardener are you?

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Although not required, are you a...

MSU Extension Master Gardener       Master Rain Gardener

How would your garden engage, inspire, and educate others?

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Please explain any financial need you might have for this cost-share

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Anything else you'd like us to know about you?

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## **YOUR COMMITMENT**

Do you agree to the following responsibilities as part of your application, each of which you can find explained in further detail above in the application?

- Reimburse 50% of budgeted costs (typically \$275 to \$750)
- Recruit 5 volunteers from your network
- Provide light snacks and refreshments for volunteers
- Commit to maintaining your garden for a period of 5 years

## **PROPERTY INFORMATION**

Address where rain garden will be planted

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_, MI Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Who owns the land?     Self     Landlord     Private     Municipality  
                                  County or State     Unsure

If you do not own the land, are you able to get signed permission from the owner? Please include a letter of support with this application.     Yes     No

## GARDEN INFORMATION (OPTIONAL)

You do not need to have performed any design work for your garden to be selected. The information requested below is optional. However, the better you can communicate your goals for your garden space using the resources below or by submitting accompanying design documentation, the more likely your application will be selected for funding.

### Photos of proposed garden space.

Please e-mail ([RainSmart@TheRouge.org](mailto:RainSmart@TheRouge.org)) or print and attach photos of the space (or spaces) where you'd like your rain garden installed. Feel free to draw on the photos to show your ideas. Please note that the garden location must be towards the front half of your property to be eligible.

### Results of soil infiltration test \_\_\_\_\_ (inches/hour)

For directions on how to perform a soil infiltration test, visit [TheRouge.org/SoilTest](http://TheRouge.org/SoilTest) to watch a three minute video developed by the University of Nebraska. The soil test should be performed where you would like the rain garden installed. Do not forget to saturate the soils as described in the video.

### Contributing impervious area \_\_\_\_\_ (square feet)

How large is the area of roof, driveway, sidewalk, or other hard surface from which the rain garden will receive runoff? For all areas requested, an easy method to develop a rough estimate is to use Google Maps. Right-click on your home map, select "measure distance," and then draw a shape around the feature to obtain an area estimate.

### Other contributing run-off areas?

Does any other areas of land drain to your proposed rain garden? Please describe the area and indicate the approximate area of the drainage source

<u>Run-off Source Description</u>	<u>Area.</u>
_____ e.g. lawn, steep slope, clay soils	_____ <u>200</u> (square feet)
_____	_____ (square feet)
_____	_____ (square feet)

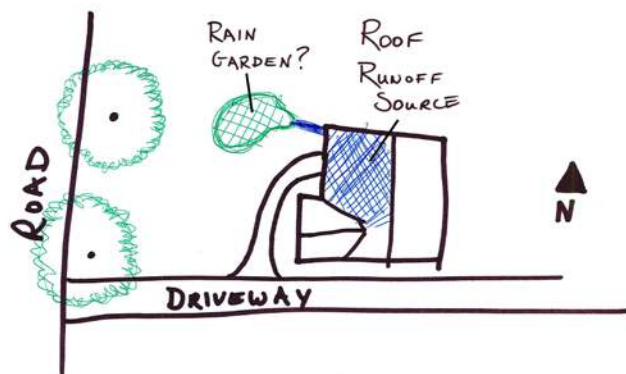
### Available space for rain garden \_\_\_\_\_ (square feet)

How much area do you have available for the rain garden? The space should be relatively flat, at least 10 feet away from houses, and should not extend underneath any tree canopies.

## SITE SKETCH (OPTIONAL)

- In the space below or on another sheet of paper, please include a rough sketch concept for the rain garden. The sketch should be viewed from above, and include elements like: streets, outlines of buildings, driveways, sidewalks, trees, etc. Please identify the run-off source.
  - As a rule of thumb, rain gardens are often  $1/5^{\text{th}}$  the size of the area draining to the garden, depending on the soils.
  - For example, if the garden receives water from one gutter downspout draining a 1,000 square foot area of roof, the garden might need to be around 200 square feet.

### SAMPLE SITE SKETCH





**To complete your application, please sign below.**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, have completed this form accurately and to the best of my ability. I understand the services being offered, their terms, and my own obligations and responsibilities related to the Rain Garden Installation. I look forward to building an excellent rain garden!

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Your Signature

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Date

If approved:

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Friends of the Rouge Authorized Signature

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Date

## IF YOUR PROJECT IS APPROVED, YOU WILL RECEIVE THE FOLLOWING:

Timeline following project approval

- 1) Friends of the Rouge will arrange a site visit to review your property and plans, and to test the soils. You must be present for the site visit.
- 2) Friends of the Rouge will provide you a concept budget to review and approve (see template below).
- 3) Once you have approved the budget, Friends of the Rouge will develop or adapt your plans as required by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) for engineering review and approval, typically a 9 week process.
- 4) Once approved by MDEQ, Friends of the Rouge will schedule your installation workshop around one month out (unless sufficient volunteers are committed to the project to allow faster scheduling). Projects will not be scheduled after September 30<sup>th</sup>.

### CONCEPT BUDGET

This budget will be completed and provided to you by Friends of the Rouge staff. You must return your signed approval before work will begin on your rain garden design and installation.

Item	Cost per Unit	Qty	Total
Mulch (shredded hardwood typical)			
Compost			
Plants			
Plant Delivery			
Design and Installation			
Total			
Your 50% Cost-Share Obligation			

**If approved, to complete your application, please sign below.**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, understand that I will be obligated to pay the 50% cost-share total from above, in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_. I will be billed for this amount following the successful completion of my rain garden installation. I will pay the total amount within 30 days following successful installation.

Signature\_\_\_\_\_

Date\_\_\_\_\_