Rain Garden Designs for Kalamazoo County

Installation Guidelines

* Visit www.raingardens.org to learn about the benefits of rain gardens.
* Locate the rain garden at least 10 feet from a foundation or basement in partial or full sun, in a relatively flat area.
* Size the garden to be about 15-20% of the area from which it will receive runoff (e.g., roof, lawn, parking lot) for well-drained, sandy soils. Make the rain garden larger (30-45% of the drainage area) in clayey soils.
* Kidney, oval, or other long shapes work well, with the length about twice the width. Direct runoff into the garden’s long edge via a downspout or depression.
* Call MISS DIG at 811 or 1-800-482-7171 before you dig.
* For sandy or silty well-drained soils, dig a shallow basin about 3-6 inches deep, making the bottom level and gently sloping the edges or building a berm around the lower edge. You may want to make the basin slightly deeper for clayey soils (5-7 inches).
* Plant native plant plugs about 12-18 inches apart and add a 2 inch layer of shredded hardwood mulch or another ground cover to suppress weeds. Using edging can help keep grass out of your garden and provide definition.
* Water plants in the first two years until established, cut back plants in the fall or spring, and divide plants and weed as needed. Visit michiganflora.net for pictures of plants in all growth stages to help with identification while weeding.
* For assistance in situating, designing, or maintaining your rain garden, Kalamazoo Area Wild Ones offers a free site visit to your property with suggestions and advice for Wild Ones members, as well as a free yearly plant exchange. Yearly memberships start at $20-37, visit kalamazoowildones.org for more information. Contact the Office of the Kalamazoo County Drain Commissioner (269-384-8117) for a partial refund toward a one-year membership after rain garden installation is complete.

Plant list for rain garden designs on reverse

70 and 140 sq. ft. gardens in sandy or silty soils in full or partial sun

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Common name</th>
<th>Species name</th>
<th>Number of plants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rain Garden 1</td>
<td>Rain Garden 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black-eyed Susan</td>
<td>Ruubgeicka hirta</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Butterfly weed</td>
<td>Asclepia tuberosa</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Button/Rough blazing star</td>
<td>Liatris aspera</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nodding wild onion</td>
<td>Allium cernuum</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prairie dropseed</td>
<td>Sporobolus heterolepis</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prairie phlox</td>
<td>Phlox pilosa</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purple coneflower</td>
<td>Echinacea purpurea</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purple milkweed</td>
<td>Asclepia purpurascens</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lead plant</td>
<td>Amorpha canescens</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Little bluestem</td>
<td>Schizachyrium scoparium</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smooth aster</td>
<td>Aster laevis</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wild bergamot</td>
<td>Monarda fistulosa</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Recommended plants may be available for purchase at:

**Hidden Savanna Nursery**—many local native varieties available
100 N Van Kal St, Kalamazoo, MI / 269-352-3876
www.hiddensavanna.com
See website or call for dates and times of sales, additional times are available by appointment. *Bring this brochure to Hidden Savanna for 5% off in addition to retail discounts already offered

**Romence Gardens**
9660 Shaver Road, Portage, MI / 269-323-8310
www.romencegardencenter.com

**Wedel’s Nursery, Florist and Garden Center**
5020 Texas Drive, Kalamazoo, MI / 269-345-1195
www.wedels.com
*Ask about their Loyalty Program for $5 and $10 rewards

**Wennke Greenhouses**
5071 Market Street, Kalamazoo, MI / 269-388-2266
www.wenkeguardencenter.com
*Ask about their free Garden Rewards Program

**See http://kcalcounty.com/drain/raingarden.htm** for more resources, including a list of local businesses that provide rain garden design, installation, or maintenance.
Rain Garden 1:
70 sq. ft. rain garden for sandy or silty soils, full or partial sun.
Can accept up to 350 sq. ft. of drainage area to the garden.
Total number of plants needed: 67   Approximate cost: $250-350

Rain Garden 2:
140 sq. ft. rain garden for sandy or silty soils, full or partial sun.
Can accept up to 700 sq. ft. of drainage area to the garden
Total number of plants needed: 112   Approximate cost: $450-550