

What is a Rain Garden?

A rain garden is a shallow depression that is planted with native plants that have extensive root and thrive in wet conditions. Rain gardens help to keep lake water clean by collecting surface runoff water from roads and other impervious surfaces, and filtering out pollutants like oil, road salt and pesticides before they reach the lake.



The Mirror Lake Rain Garden on Berlin Street was designed and planted in May, 2006, by students from the Waupaca High School Horticulture class under the direction of teachers Jennifer Erb and Renee Lehman, with support and assistance from the City of Waupaca Public Works, the Waupaca County Land and Water Conservation Department, J&J Tranzplant Aquatic Nursery and the Friends of Waupaca Mirror and Shadow Lakes.

This rain garden has several native plant species: Spotted Joe Pyeweed, Blue Joint Grass, Purple Stem Aster, Bergamot, Blazing Star, Swamp Milkweed, Comosa, Fox Sedge, Flowering Rush, Sweetflag, Water Arum, Blunt Spike Rush, Sneezeweed, Blue Flag, Illinois Tick Trefoil and Purple Coneflower.

Rain gardens do not need to be near a lake shore to be effective. Pollutants from parking lots, driveways and rooftops that are carried by runoff water can make their way into ground water and eventually into lakes and streams. You can help the environment and enjoy beautiful native plants and flowers with a rain garden in your own backyard.

The City received a grant from the Waupaca County Land and Water Conservation Office to help defray the cost of the rain garden. If you would like to create your own rain garden, more information is available from the Waupaca County Land and Water Conservation Office.



Joe Pye Weed



Sneezeweed



Purple Coneflower



Illinois Tick Trefoil



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