

CITY OF LAFAYETTE

WET WEATHER PROGRAM

City Rain Garden Planting

The City of Lafayette will design and plant rain gardens, a natural option for managing stormwater, to improve drainage and stormwater quality at three locations.

Located at Kossuth and 19th streets, Prange Drive and along four city blocks of Earl Avenue, the rain gardens will reduce standing water. Rather than flooding street and yards, the rain water will flow into rain gardens, and it will seep or infiltrate naturally into the ground.

By placing the rain gardens close to stormwater inlets, the amount of stormwater entering the combined sanitary and



Rain Gardens Beautify Community



and lawn chemicals from the stormwater before it flows into local waterways. Each area will be planted with a variety of native plants that are well adapted to the humid, Indiana climate. Wildflowers, ferns, grasses, trees and shrubs all can thrive in rain gardens.

stormwater sewer will be reduced as well. During and after wet weather, stormwater in the combined sewer can take up space needed to transport sewage to the treatment plant, and when the sewer reaches capacity, raw sewage overflows into a nearby stream or river can occur. After a storm, the rain gardens may absorb much of the stormwater that otherwise would flow directly into the combined sewer.

The rain gardens also will serve as a natural filter, helping to remove pollutants such as oil from cars, trash

Native Plants Filter Pollutants

Highlights

Project: Drainage improvements

Estimated Project Cost: \$320,000

Status: Planning

Project Benefits:

- Improved water quality of stormwater runoff to the Wabash River
- Reduced pollutants in local waterways
- Enhanced aesthetics in neighborhood as a result of rain gardens
- Compliance with state and federal regulations

The City Rain Garden Planting project is part of Lafayette's capital improvement program to improve the water quality of the Wabash River and other local streams and to address existing drainage conditions. The projects will reduce flooding and satisfy the requirements of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Indiana Department of Environmental Management.

