

Rain Garden Success:

This home features an attractive and functional solution for addressing water issues in a landscape, by directing surface and roof runoff into a rain garden. Here, the rain garden incorporates a dry stream that has slight curves with wider sections, to ensure it looks like a natural creek. This gravel-filled trench is not intended to hold water, but enables it to permeate down into the earth. In our area, down spouts are often connected into the public sewers resulting in significant amounts of rain water from roofs causing flooding issues in the neighborhood. Here, the roof runoff is diverted into the rain garden creating a beautiful, yet highly functional garden.

This dry stream provides a functional solution to the issue, is easy to install and as seen here, looks beautiful when bordered with rocks and low-growing plants. Locating this feature far enough from the home is key to protect the foundation.

This home has two elegant water gardens that surround the property, making it a functional yet attractive garden, overflowing with a wide variety of flowers selected to attract a variety of pollinators, and people.

From the homeowner:

When designing the landscape of this home we incorporated a “Rain Garden” into both the North and South gardens. This reduced the water flow across the property from oversized gutters. This also kept large amounts of water from flowing into catch basins and sewers. (See benefits below).

The following is a list of plants in these gardens. However, you only see a small portion at a time as some bloom and fade with the seasons.

The following is a list of plants in these gardens. However, you only see a small portion at a time as some bloom and fade with the seasons.

South: The South garden is basically a perennial shade garden with some added sun loving plants.

Alliums	Iris (Yellow & Purple)	Columbine
Astilbe (3 colors)	Variegated Liriope	Purple & Orange Coneflowers
Bleeding Hearts	Jack in Pulpit	Forsythia Bushes
Orange Day Lilys	Foxglove	Sweetspire Bush
Liatris	Dahlias	Hydrangea Bushes
Hellebores (3 varieties)	Spiderwort (3 colors)	Deutzia Bush
Hosta (2 varieties)	Lily Turf grass	Oak Leaf Hydrangea Bush
Yellow Archangel (around tree)	Phlox	Vinca groundcover
Sweet William & Sweet	Lamium (spotted nettle)	Pachysandra groundcover
Woodruff	Japanese fern	Milkweed

North: The North garden is a perennial sun garden.

Columbine	Dahlias	Bellflower
Dianthus (3 varieties)	Joe-Pye Weed	Pink Thrift
Balloon Flower	Phlox	Sunflowers
Daisy	Coneflowers (Purple, Yellow, Orange)	Allium Sicilian Garlic
Delphinium	Iris	Red Roses
Geraniums	Lavender	Peony
Veronica	Lilys	Dianthus
Russian Sage	Liatris	Cranberry Bush
Stonecrop Sedum	Daffodils	Weigela Bushes
Lupine	Tulips	Spirea Bushes
Salvia	Monarda (Bee Balm)	Hydrangea Bushes
Hyacinth	Heliopsis (Tall Yellow)	
Cannas		

Rain Garden Benefits:

- Keeps rainwater and melted snow on site, so as not to overload storm sewers and cause flooding.
- Allows streams and creeks to be fed by cool groundwater at a constant rate.
- Provides a way to use and optimize rainfall, reducing or avoiding the need for irrigation.
- Because water is held for a short amount of time, mosquito breeding does not take place.
- Filters some pollutants caused by runoff from paved areas, roads and roofs.
- Encourages wildlife and biodiversity.
- Recharges groundwater, reducing the need for costly storm water treatment structures.

Resources:

https://www.chicagobotanic.org/conservation/rain_garden

<https://www2.illinois.gov/dnr/education/PlantListRainGarden.aspx>