

# Raingardens

The secret to clean water is in the roots!



Backyard Raingarden - Blue Thumb

A raingarden is simply a bowl shaped garden that is built where it will capture rain and snowmelt (stormwater runoff) before it reaches a storm sewer or nearby stream, lake or river.

You can plant a raingarden at home to catch runoff from your rooftop, driveway or street. The runoff soaks into the garden within two days and is cleaned by the plants and the soil.



Mahtomedi Raingarden - Blue Thumb

Raingardens are a beautiful way to keep our favorite lakes and rivers clean. They ensure a steady supply of groundwater and attract birds and butterflies.



Lake Elmo Raingarden - Bonnie Juran

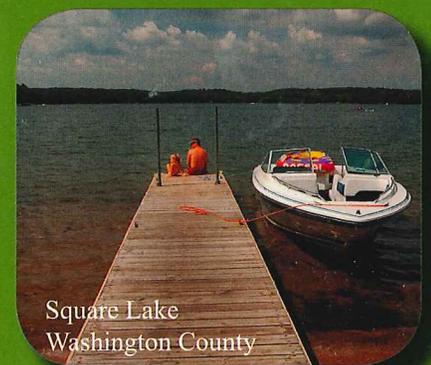
## Why raingardens?

Properly designed raingardens:

- ☀ Beautify your landscape
- ☀ Reduce pollution to lakes, rivers and streams
- ☀ Reduce flooding and erosion
- ☀ Attract birds and butterflies
- ☀ Protect fish and other aquatic animals

Raingardens DO NOT:

- ☀ attract mosquitoes
- ☀ hold water more than 2 days
- ☀ require more maintenance than other gardens
- ☀ cost lots of money



Square Lake  
Washington County



Learn more about raingardens at  
[www.BlueThumb.org](http://www.BlueThumb.org)

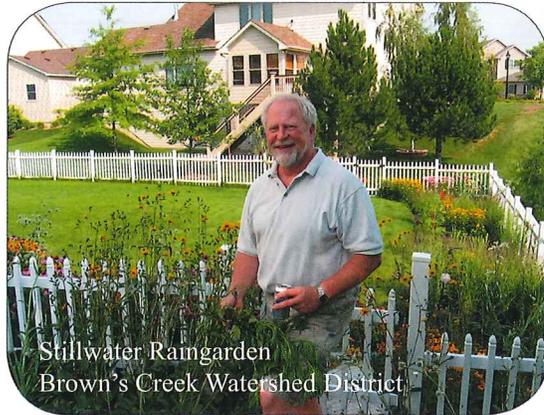
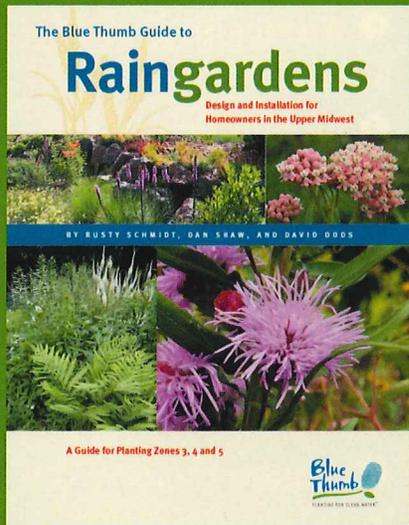


# Raingardens

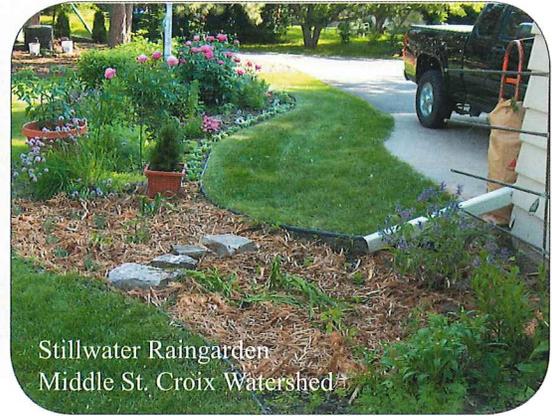
Plan today, plant tomorrow!

The Blue Thumb Guide to Raingardens leads you through the basics of designing and installing a raingarden in your yard. \$17.95.

Find local retailers at [www.BlueThumb.org](http://www.BlueThumb.org).



Stillwater Raingarden  
Brown's Creek Watershed District



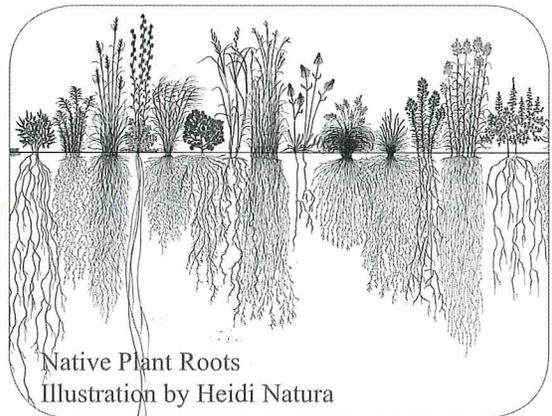
Stillwater Raingarden  
Middle St. Croix Watershed

Raingardens come in all shapes and sizes, and can complement existing landscaping.

Place your garden where it will capture run-off from your rooftop or driveway.



Black-Eyed Susan  
Blue Thumb



Native Plant Roots  
Illustration by Heidi Natura

Native plants and deep-rooted garden perennials are best for raingardens.

Deep roots help to soak water into the ground and break up compacted soil.

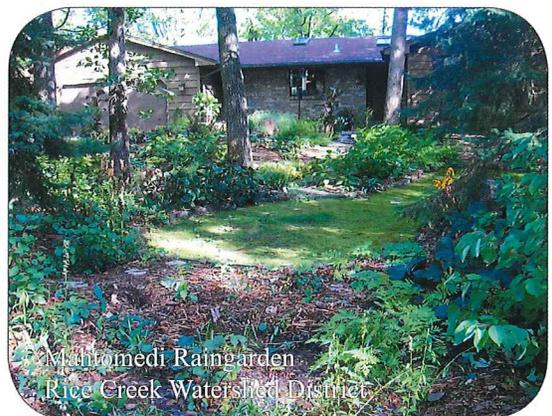
## Live in Washington County?

Get free design advice and \$\$ for native habitat plantings, raingardens and shoreline projects.

651-275-1136 x.35 or [mnwcd.org/cleanwater](http://mnwcd.org/cleanwater)



Monarch Butterfly on Milkweed  
Blue Thumb



Multimedi Raingarden  
Rice Creek Watershed District

Native plants are drought resistant and do not require fertilizer or pesticides.

Raingardens work in both sandy and clay soils and can also be planted in the shade.