

# How does the Front Yard Rain Garden Program work?

## Step 1: Sign up for a rain garden

Contact UTRCA staff and arrange a site visit to determine whether a rain garden will work in your front yard. Sometimes, gardens cannot be put in due to underground utilities or steep slopes.

## Step 2: Choose your design

If your front yard is suitable for a rain garden, UTRCA staff will help you decide on the garden's location and size, and select plants from a list of native plants that grow well in rain gardens.

## Step 3: Plant your garden

UTRCA staff will help you create your garden and will provide all the material that will be needed.

## Step 4: Maintain your garden

Once your rain garden is planted, you are responsible for maintaining it. Most gardens are relatively low maintenance but all will require weeding, watering for the first year, and cutting back every year. UTRCA staff are available for information and consultations when needed.

## Step 5: Promoting your garden

UTRCA will place a small information sign beside your rain garden so people can find out more. The garden will also be part of an annual tour throughout London to promote rain gardens.

# Frequently Asked Questions

## Do I have to pay for my rain garden?

No. The front yard rain gardens are part of a pilot project so each garden created in our target area will be installed for free. However, the resident must agree to a small information sign placed beside the garden and allow the garden to be a stopover on any scheduled tours. This program is being sponsored by the Ontario Ministry of Environment and Climate Change.

## Do I have to maintain the garden myself?

Yes. Most gardens are relatively low maintenance but will require weeding, watering the first year, and annual cutting back. UTRCA staff are available for advice when needed.

## Will the garden be a breeding ground for mosquitoes?

No. Rain gardens are designed to soak up water within 48 hours of a rain event. Mosquito larvae require 7-12 days of standing water before they emerge.



### For More Information

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## Pilot Project: Front Yard Rain Garden

**Goal for the Glen Cairn Neighbourhood:**  
25% of homes with front yard rain gardens

Join us to create a vibrant and healthy community by transforming part of your lawn into a rain garden.

# LET'S GET PLANTING!



## Rainscaping

Landscaping for Clean Water

[www.thamesriver.on.ca/LID](http://www.thamesriver.on.ca/LID)



# The Stormwater Challenge

## Where does rainwater go?

In planted landscapes, rain soaks into the ground. But when rain falls onto roofs, roads, driveways and other hard surfaces, it cannot soak into the ground. In most neighbourhoods, this water runs into storm sewers and is carried, untreated, into a nearby stream, wetland, pond or lake.

## What's wrong with sending stormwater down the storm sewer?

- Stormwater pollutes local water. It goes directly into local rivers and creeks carrying pollutants like soil, fertilizers, pesticides, oil, soap, litter, organic matter, and pet feces.
- Stormwater runoff makes our rivers and creeks muddy and can contribute to algae blooms, affecting aquatic plants and animals as well as aesthetics and recreation.
- Sending stormwater out of the neighbourhood contributes to flooding downstream.

## What can you do?

Sign up for a FREE demonstration rain garden in your front yard! A rain garden can reduce stormwater runoff by up to 80%, and looks great, too!

The Upper Thames River Conservation Authority (UTRCA), along with their partners in the Glen Cairn Community Partners, is looking for suitable demonstration sites in the Glen Cairn Neighbourhood.

## How does a rain garden work?

