



In order to reduce the long-term impact of your home on your downstream neighbors, a **RAIN GARDEN** was installed when your home was constructed.

### What is a Rain Garden?

A rain garden is a landscaped area designed as a depression to collect and absorb runoff from small areas, such as individual rooftops, driveways, and other on-lot features in single-family residential developments.



### How does it work?

Stormwater runoff enters a Rain Garden and is temporarily stored in a shallow pool on top of a surface mulch layer and an underground mix of sand and compost. Runoff may be taken up and used by the plantings or slowly filters down through the ground and is absorbed into the underlying soil. Any runoff that is absorbed into the soil helps to recharge groundwater and the soil acts like a filter, removing impurities and contaminants from water. This means more water in drinking water wells and streams that can better support large populations of fish and wildlife.

### Maintenance of a Rain Garden is the responsibility of the property owner. How should it be maintained?

- Remove trash and debris and replace dead or damaged plants.
- Observe infiltration of runoff after rain events. There should be no standing water more than 24 hours after a storm event.
- Mow around the area and ensure no grass clippings are placed in the garden.
- Inspect for erosion and provide stone drainage edging or other protection where flow enters or leaves the garden. Provide protection anywhere erosion is evident.
- Prune and weed the garden.
- Mulch garden with hardwood or other non-floating mulch, once per calendar year.

**The continued maintenance of your Rain Garden is your responsibility in order to reduce environmental impacts and to protect those downstream. Please refer to Greenville County Land Development for more information.**