RAIN GARDEN INITIATIVE OF TOLEDO-LUCAS COUNTY

Promoting the use of rain gardens and green infrastructure as tools for stormwater management

www.raingardeninitiative.org
Rain Garden Initiative of Toledo-Lucas County

Assist Citizens Interested in Constructing Rain Gardens:

• Demonstration projects
• Technical assistance and training
• Public information and involvement
Why Rain Gardens?

Natural Drainage System
Water can soak into the soil and be absorbed by plants

Urban Drainage System
Paved surfaces prevent water from soaking into the soil, increasing runoff
What Is A Rain Garden?

- A garden in a low spot
- Catching runoff from downspouts, driveways, parking lots, roads, etc.
- Constructed with deep-rooted plants
- Can be designed in all shapes and sizes
• University of Wisconsin-Madison Arboretum Earth Partnership for Schools’ Rain Garden Curricular Sampler with Loan Box

• Online Lesson Plans at www.raingardeninitiative.org - click on For Educators - and www.kidsgardening.org

• Teacher Workshops – Project WET and Project WILD (Aquatic WILD and Science & Civics), WOW! The Wonders of Wetlands
Project WILD is….

• An interdisciplinary conservation and environmental education program focused on wildlife which strives to:
  – Engage students in hands-on learning
  – Teach students how to think, not what to think
  – Assist students of any age to develop awareness, knowledge, skills and commitment resulting in informed decisions, responsible behavior and constructive actions regarding the environment
Science & Civics is...

• Designed in response to a recognized need for curriculum to...
  – Incorporate content area and real-life learning experiences
  – Involve a service component
  – Include typically underserved audiences
  – Be consistent with educational trends
  – Expose students to a variety of careers
• Project WILD is developed by and administered on a national level by the Council for Environmental Education (CEE) with co-sponsorship by the International Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies.

• Science & Civics is administered on a national and regional level by the National Wildlife Federation (NWF).

• Both are administered on the local level by the ODNR Division of Wildlife.
Goals of Science & Civics

- Involve students in environmental action projects aimed at benefiting wildlife (or other natural resources) in their community
- Involve young adults in decisions affecting people in their community
- Integrate the concept of responsible action into all projects
- Effectively increase reach to underserved audiences
- Create partnerships in the development and implementation of new programs
- Move students from awareness to understanding to responsible behavior & conservation action
4 Components of Science & Civics

- Awareness
- Participatory Democracy
- Habitat Exploration
- Taking Action
Program Flow

Awareness

Problem Identification

“Civics” Participatory Democracy

“Science” Habitat Exploration

Combined Planning

Taking Action

Assessment & Reflection
Introducing the Curriculum Guide…
Start High School Urban Watershed Habitat Project

Rain Garden Highlights

- Designed by Honors Biology Students
- Constructed by Natural Resources and Landscaping Students
- Provides Service Learning and Research Opportunities
- Used for Lessons on Human Activity and the Water Cycle, Population Studies, Native vs. Invasive Species
Additional School Installations

Bowsher High School

Hawkins Elementary School

Gesu School

Wildwood Environmental Academy
Junior Watershed Academy
Where Can We Learn More About Rain Gardens?

www.raingardeninitiative.org

City of Toledo Environmental Services
(419) 936-3015

Lucas Soil & Water Conservation District
(419) 893-1966

OSU Extension Horticulture Hotline
(419) 578-6783
mghotline@cfaes.osu.edu
Hotline hours: Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays
10 am to 1 pm
Other Taking Action Options

Clean Your Streams / Get the Lead Out

Ohio Water Sentinel Program

Storm Drain Stenciling