



**For Immediate Release**

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### **Rain Gardens for Home Landscapes**

Even though spring is still months away, it is not too early to think about how your garden can be the envy of your neighbors this spring. This year the University of Georgia Cooperative Extension Service in Gwinnett and the Clean Water Campaign are teaming up to provide you with the information to construct rain gardens.

Rain gardens are natural landscape features that require less maintenance and fewer chemicals than lawns. Rain gardens capture runoff from impervious (impassable) areas such as roofs and driveways and allow it to seep slowly into the ground. Most importantly, rain gardens help preserve nearby streams and lakes by reducing the amount of runoff and filtering pollutants.

Rainwater naturally infiltrates through the soil in a constructed rain garden. This helps to filter out pollutants including fertilizer, pesticides, oil, heavy metals and other chemicals that are carried with the rainwater that washes off your lawn, rooftop and driveway.

Rain gardens are best located in natural depressions (low lying areas where water flows naturally). They should be sited at least 10 feet from a house or building. While they should not be next to building foundations, rain gardens near impervious surfaces such as driveways, patios and sidewalks help capture the runoff from these areas.

In order for a rain garden to be effective, it must be constructed properly. If you are uncertain about how to construct a rain garden, contact your local University of Georgia Cooperative Extension Service Office or the Clean Water Campaign. The University of Georgia Cooperative Extension Service in Gwinnett will be holding a rain garden workshop on January 11 at 7 PM in the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center located at 75 Langley Drive in Lawrenceville. Registration is required. Call 404-463-3259 or visit online at [www.cleanwatercampaign.com](http://www.cleanwatercampaign.com).

The Gwinnett County Extension Service office has DVDs and VHS tapes available for your homeowners association, civic group or other organizations to borrow. If you are interested, please contact the service at 678-377-4010. The program will also be airing on Gwinnett County's Government Access Channel TV-23.

*The **Clean Water Campaign** is a cooperative, multi-agency public education initiative spearheaded by local governments in metro Atlanta, supported by the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District and managed by the Atlanta Regional Commission. Its mission is to build awareness of water quality problems and solutions in the Atlanta region. For more information about the Clean Water Campaign, contact Kelley O'Brien at 404-463-3259.*

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