



For Immediate Release

Contact: Grace Trimble 404-463-3192
or Kelley O'Brien 404-463-3259

Rain Gardens for Home Landscapes in North Fulton

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. The Clean Water Campaign will be hosting workshops on how to construct rain gardens throughout metropolitan North Georgia.

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. Attend a "Rain Garden" workshop in partnership Fulton County and the Clean Water Campaign with speaker Diane Minick of Environmental Impact Assessment. The next workshop will be held on January 31 at 6:30 PM at the North Fulton Service Center located at North Service Center, 7741 Roswell Road, Atlanta, GA 30350. Registration is required. Call 404-463-3259 or visit online at www.cleanwatercampaign.com.

In addition to the workshop, the Fulton County Extension Service and Fulton County Environment and Community Development offices have DVDs and VHS tapes available for homeowners association, civic group or other organizations to borrow. If you are interested, please contact the service at (404) 762-4077. The program will also be airing on FGTV.

*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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