

Step 1: What is a Rain Garden

In November 2021, I moved into my dream home with my wife and 2 kids in Montgomery Township. This is a beautiful area with an amazing school district, incredible parks, and a plethora of shopping. This dream home and location are enough to make anyone happy but there was one minor inconvenience I quickly learned about, and this was the flooding and water draining problems which are abundant in our area. I started researching the issues at hand after my backyard turned into a swamp for weeks on end. Turns out we live in one of the wettest areas in America and believe it or not, PA has the second most waterways to any state (second only to Alaska)! So, with this problem at hand I had a few options to look at. My first option was a french drain but this turned out to be costly and the water would only be repositioned to another area, not really solved, just moved. The second option was to re-grade the entire area. This would mean moving, or adding, massive amounts of soil to change the slope of the runoff water. A decent idea but again, would be costly and impact the ecosystem and environment. What I landed on was to me the best option out there, create a rain garden.

For those who may not know, a rain garden is pretty much exactly what it says, it is a garden built for rain! Rain gardens are constructed with plants specifically designed to thrive in areas with high water levels and are proficient at absorbing this water. So, not only do rain gardens absorb the standing water caused by pooling and large rains, but the plants thrive in these areas providing an ecosystem for plants, insects, and small animals.

Equipped with my new knowledge and direction to build the best rain garden possible, I started planning out the location and selecting the plants. Stay tuned for the next blog on plant selection!