Executive Summary

As part of Fort Wayne’s overall effort to improve water quality of our rivers and the streams that feed them, Fort Wayne hopes that home owners, businesses, and institutions will build rain gardens! A rain garden is a landscaped area that holds water runoff for a few hours to a few days. Rain gardens are typically planted with native species that help soak up more water and these plants may improve the quality of the water that does runoff from the rain garden. Please go to www.catchingrainfw.org for more information about Fort Wayne’s program.

The City of Fort Wayne also hopes that these Educational Modules will be utilized by teachers in the area to enhance their programmatic goals as well as enrich our children’s lives. These Educational Modules are correlated with Indiana science standards and follow recommendations of the Hoosier Association of Science Teachers Inc. (HASTI). They also compliment the Earth Partnership of School (EPS) and the National Science Foundation (NSF) based curricula.

By investing in our children’s education, we are also investing in the future of Fort Wayne. Thank you for considering these Educational Modules as part of that investment.

Snapshot of the Modules

1. The Growing Process
   - This Module demonstrates how plants adapt and support the functions of a rain garden.

2. Rain Garden Siting and Design
   - This Module shows how to best determine the best locations to build a rain garden.

3. Fort Wayne’s History and Its Rivers
   - This Module explains Ft. Wayne’s watersheds as well as what activities contribute to pollution.

4. Polluted Runoff
   - This Module explains the different types of pollutants and how we can all help to reduce water pollution.

5. Rain Garden Maintenance
   - This Module explains how to keep a rain garden functioning the way it was designed to work by going over simple maintenance techniques as well as weed identification.

Classroom Application

Each module includes background information and versions of activities that have been designed for use with different (K-12) grade levels.
Acknowledgements
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