Rain Gardens for Fort Wayne Businesses

For more information contact:
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CatchingRain FortWayne
Green Infrastructure Initiative
www.catchingrainfw.org

City of Fort Wayne
THOMAS C. HENRY
MAYOR

www.catchingrainfw.org
Fort Wayne is seeking businesses that want to build a rain garden

As part of its very successful residential rain garden program to reduce stormwater runoff, Fort Wayne City Utilities is now offering businesses a way to get involved.

Why Build a Rain Garden?
Rain gardens are an environmentally focused, cost effective way to collect, reduce and clean stormwater runoff before it enters a stormwater conveyance system or a river, lake or stream. Rain gardens use native plants to help increase soil permeability so that more stormwater runoff can soak into the ground. A rain garden can be a beautiful addition to your traditional landscaping or it can form the basis of a whole new, sustainable look for your property. Once established a rain garden can reduce the amount of irrigation water you use and will require less maintenance than more traditional landscaping using ornamental plants.

Rain Garden Options for Businesses
No two businesses in Fort Wayne are just alike. Because every business is a little different, City Utilities has developed several options that will allow businesses with just a few or with many employees to participate. There are options for businesses with a lot of property or just a tiny bit.

Option 1: Build an On-Site Rain Garden — Small Site
If your business is on a small residential-type property and you use mostly on-street parking, consider building a residential-type rain garden. City Utilities will provide you with:
- An instructional workshop
- Limited technical assistance for siting, design and plant selection
- Signage
- Recognition on the City’s website
- Assistance in promoting your rain garden to local media

Option 2: Be a Host for the Rain Garden Program
If your business is located on a large tract with a large amount of hard surface and little space available for a rain garden, you can encourage your employees to build rain gardens at home. Set a goal of having employees install rain gardens whose size would equal the amount you would need to soak up half the runoff from your corporate site. City Utilities will help you by:
- Providing a “how-to” rain garden workshop for your employees at your location
- Employees who live in side the City limits and build a rain garden may qualify for a cash incentive or discounted plants from the City
- Recognizing your business on our website
- Providing signage recognizing your business as a Corporate Host
- Assistance in promoting your participation to local media

Option 3: Sponsor an Off-Site Garden
Another option for businesses that don’t have on-site space for a rain garden is to help maintain a garden at a school, park or neighborhood location or help build a new garden. City Utilities will:
- Assist in finding a community site for a new garden or identifying an existing garden location where maintenance assistance is needed
- Provide technical assistance for siting, design and plant selection for a new garden
- Provide signage recognizing your business
- Provide assistance in promoting your participation to local media

Option 4: Build a Rain Garden at Your Business — Large Site
If you have a large site with plenty of open space, consider replacing some of your existing landscaping with a rain garden. City Utilities will help you by:
- Providing technical assistance with siting, design and plant selection
- Providing signage
- Recognizing your business on our web site
- Assisting with promoting your participation to local media

Businesses wishing to design rain gardens that will function as part of an overall site design for stormwater quantity management should contact City Utilities Development Services for more information.

If your business is participating in the Bright Green Business Program sponsored by the Northeast Indiana Sustainable Business Council, participation in the City Utilities rain garden program can help you meet the requirements for Stormwater Pollution Prevention. Visit www.nisbc.org for more information on the Bright Green Business Program.