

RAIN GARDEN REBATE APPLICATION FORM

In an effort to improve the quality of stormwater runoff and increase local awareness of the importance of protecting our local streams and lakes, the City of Marion is promoting methods to capture and infiltrate stormwater in residential areas. Stormwater Best Management Practices – or BMPs – such as rain gardens can be used in residential yards to capture stormwater where it falls and allow it to infiltrate into the ground. These gardens reduce the amount of nutrients and other pollutants that runoff our yards and enter local waterways.

A rain garden is a depression or shallow bowl (6” to 9” deep) made in the landscape that captures rain from roofs, driveways and yards. Rain gardens must be designed to collect and contain rain water as opposed to allowing water to flow through it such a swale or ditch. Runoff that travels to a rain garden is temporarily ponded, but it doesn’t stay there for long. Capturing runoff in a rain garden allows water to infiltrate into the soil rather than run into streets and storm drains. Soils in rain gardens must drain well to allow water to infiltrate into the soil. Native plants and/or horticultural flowers must be incorporated into rain gardens as well. The root systems of these plants help with this absorption and infiltration, and the flowers from these plants are not only attractive but help provide a habitat for butterflies, bees, and other helpful insects.

Almost anyone who has adequate drainage in the soils in their yard could have a rain garden, and a simple test can be performed to determine soil drainage characteristics. Even if the soil does not drain adequately, it may still be possible to construct an enhanced rain garden with amended soils and draitile. Rain garden design details can be found in the Iowa Rain Garden Design and Installation Manual available for download:

<http://www.rainscapingiowa.org/images/stories/RI%20Rain%20Garden%20Design%20Manual.pdf>

For more information on urban stormwater management practices visit:



www.rainscapingiowa.org



www.iowastormwater.org

The City of Marion is offering a rebate of up to \$400 for the installation of residential rain gardens within city limits. To qualify for a rebate, residents must complete the following steps:

Marion Rain Garden Rebate Program Procedures:

- 1) Identify flat areas of your yard down slope of roof drain downspouts where gardens can be installed.
- 2) Contact Iowa One Call 1-800-292-8989 to have your yard flagged for utilities in these flat areas.
- 3) Conduct a simple soil test: percolation test and ribbon test according to the Iowa Rain Garden Design and Installation Manual.
- 4) If the soils don't adequately drain, a rain garden may not be practical in your yard. Consider soil quality restoration and/or planting native plants in your flower gardens.
- 5) Once you have determined that soils adequately drain for a rain garden in your yard, develop a site plan.
- 6) Complete the Rain Garden Rebate application. Submit the application along with your site plan to the Marion Engineering Department at 1225 6th Avenue, Suite 200 (Marion City Hall).
- 7) The Marion Engineering Department will review the application and notify you when the application has been approved and you can proceed with construction of your rain garden.
- 8) Install your rain garden according to your site plan and the Iowa Rain Garden Design and Installation Manual.
- 9) The Marion Rain Garden Rebate can be used towards the purchase of the following:
 - a. Plants (at least 50% of the plants need to be native to Iowa)
 - b. Amended soil (50% sand, 30% compost, 20% yard topsoil-low clay content or purchase topsoil). This can be mixed by yourself onsite or delivered to your site by a local supplier. It is required to use a minimum of 6 inches of amended soil in the rain garden if choosing to amend the soil.
 - c. Edging (such as pavers, plastic, metal, or rocks)
 - d. Rental of a rototiller and/or sod cutter
 - e. Non-perforated (no slots or holes in pipe) drainage pipe
- 10) When construction of your rain garden is complete, contact the Marion Engineering Department at 743-6340 to schedule an inspection.
- 11) To get your rebate, complete the Proof of Purchase Form and provide receipts for the purchased materials and equipment rental to the Marion Engineering Department.
- 12) A check will then be mailed to you.

The program has limited funds and the number of approved projects per year and reimbursement amount will be based on the available funding programmed in the City budget for the current fiscal year. Maximum funding per project is \$400 per property. Applications will be reviewed in the order they are received by a Drainage Review Committee. Applications will be processed within 15 days of submittal to the Marion Engineering Department.

APPLICATION

Applicant Name _____

Address _____

Marion Utilities Account Number _____

Phone Number _____

E-mail Address _____

How did you find out about the Rebate Program? _____

Soil Test Performed? Ribbon Test Percolation Test Soil Analysis

RAIN GARDEN DESIGN

Amount of yard, driveway, and/or rooftop runoff contributing to rain garden: _____ square feet

Select percolation rate based on your soils: 0.5"/hour 1"/hour

Desired depth of rain gardens: 6" 8" 9"

Based on percolation and depth, determine the rain garden surface area needed : _____ square feet

Rain garden area: Length: _____ feet Width: _____ feet

Attach a copy of your site plan showing location and configuration of rain garden.

After rain garden has been installed:

- Contact the Marion Engineering Department at 743-6340 to schedule an inspection
- Submit the Proof of Purchase form with receipts

CUSTOMER AGREEMENT

I certify that I am a customer of the City of Marion utilities, and that this rain garden will be constructed on the lawn at the address specified above. I have read and agree to the Marion Rain Garden Rebate Program Procedures on this form. All statements made in this application are correct. I understand that the City of Marion reserves the right to inspect and verify this lawn soil quality improvement before issuing a rebate.

Customer Signature _____ Date _____

Include copies of sales receipts, picture of project, along with completed original rebate form, and mail within 30 days of installation to City of Marion Rain Garden Rebate Program, 1225 6th Avenue, Suite 200, Marion, IA 52302.

For City of Marion Use Only

Date Submitted to City for Approval _____ Amount \$ _____ Account No. _____

Reviewed By _____ Date Approved by Engineering _____

MARION RAIN GARDEN REBATE - PROOF OF PURCHASE FORM

Date	Description	Amount
_____	_____	\$ _____
_____	_____	\$ _____
_____	_____	\$ _____
_____	_____	\$ _____
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_____	_____	\$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____