

Infrastructure and Community Facilities Task Group



This Master Plan Implementation Task Group is dedicated to fulfilling the promise of the City of Flint's ambitious Master Plan.

Check the list for implementation strategies that this project will accomplish.

PLEASE JOIN US
for the next exciting project!
masterplaninfo@cityofflint.com

Objective #1	Repair and right-size key neighborhood infrastructure.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Objective #2	Ensure longevity, reliability, and efficiency of City utilities.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Objective #3	Modernize City and community facilities.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Objective #4	Leverage green technology...to increase long-term sustainability.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Objective #5	Expand opportunities for blue infrastructure development.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Objective #6	Develop and execute a coordinated City network of street trees.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Objective #7	Provide municipal services consistent with the Master Plan.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Objective #8	Work with residents to foster development of the City and its infrastructure in a manner consistent with the Master Plan.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Objective #9	Operate in an open and financially stable manner.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>



Master Plan task group Rain Garden installation project 6/27/2015

RAIN, RAIN, COME and STAY!

5 easy steps to enjoy your own
RAIN GARDEN



Master Plan task group Rain Garden installation project 6/27/2015



1) How much water falls on your home?

We know...either too much or not enough and always on weekends. But you can estimate the amount of rain that falls on your home by calculating its AREA.

Measure the LENGTH and measure the WIDTH. Multiply those two numbers, and you have the area. Then, just count the number of DOWNSPOUTS. Divide the area by the number of downspouts for the AMOUNT OF RAIN YOUR GARDEN WILL CAPTURE.

Example: your home is 60 feet by 40 feet.
 $60 \times 40 = 2,400\text{sqft}$.
You have 4 downspouts. $2,400/4 = 600\text{sqft}$.
This is your DRAINAGE AREA

2) Where does your water pool?

Don't fight mother nature. Send the water where it wants to go...no fancy formulas for this one. Just stay at least 10 feet from your foundation.

3) What type of soil do you have?

It really matters! Try the Michigan State Extension for soil testing. www.msusoiltest.com

- Sandy: faster drain = smaller rain garden
- Silty: medium = medium size
- Clay: slower drain = larger rain garden

A quick test: Dig a test hole 18" deep. Fill hole with water and let dry. Fill hole again and measure the amount of time it takes to dry again.

Many rain garden resources have exact formulas to get you the perfect size for your soil type. Use your favorite search engine for "Michigan Rain Garden".

Please note that clay soil is tricky...Additional soil may have to be added prior to planting, or consider Michigan native wetland-type plants that are able to easily take up standing water.

4) How large of a garden do you want?

The size depends on your DRAINAGE AREA, your SOIL TYPE, and your BUDGET.

Many gardens are 100sqft to 200 sqft in area. Circles and rectangles are easiest to measure, but let your unique landscape and your imagination help design the best shape for your rain garden.

We recommend:
Start SMALL. Enjoy your FLOWERS. Enjoy your BUTTERFLIES. Expand in the FUTURE.

5) What plants do you want?

There's a right place for every type of plant. You can visit the taxonomy books to find ideal plants for Hardiness Zone 6a with full sun in loamy soil that tolerates standing water. When I did this, I found how to cultivate *Taraxacum officinale* (i.e. dandelions).

Actually, there are many plants that will love your rain garden conditions. We recommend that you ask your trusted gardening friends, visit a locally-run garden retailer, or search the Michigan State Agricultural Extension for the right plants for your location.

In our project, we used some of the following:

Aquilegia canadensis,
(Wild Columbine)

Chelone glabra,
(Turtlehead)

Lobelia siphilitica, (Great Blue Lobelia)



More Info:

- ImagineFlint.com



SEARCHABLE TERMS:

- Genesee County Master Gardeners
- Washtenaw County, Rain Garden Install Tips
- MSU, Native Plants & Ecosystem Services