

Master Rain Garden Certification Course

Mission: The Master Rain Gardener (MRG) certification course is offered to promote green infrastructure as a solution to storm water runoff while improving the quality of local watersheds in Stark County through education, empowerment, and advocacy.

Vision: Prepare individuals with the necessary knowledge to properly design and implement a rain garden within their property.

Course Syllabus

Class I – Introductions | 1.25 hour

What is a rain garden?
How do rain gardens work?
Can rain gardens help solve environmental issues?
What elements make up a rain garden?
Homework

Class II – Dig into Details | 1.5 hour

All About Soils – what can soils tell us and how do they function as part of the rain garden?
Choosing a location – Is there “prime real-estate” for a rain garden?
Sourcing water – how do I plan for capturing runoff?
Plants – Part 1 – which plants are best suited for a rain garden?
Homework – review homework and understand next class assignment

Class III – Drafting a Design | 1.25 hour

Sizing your rain garden – how big does my garden have to be?
Excavation done right – how to dig your rain garden
Plants – Part 2 – which plants will do best in *YOUR* rain garden?
Drafting *YOUR* rain garden
Homework – review homework and understand next class assignment

Class IV – Field Trip

Join us for an outing to a rain garden and native plant nursery!
Reviewing *YOUR* rain garden – ask questions, ask for peer review of preliminary design, etc.

Class V – Presentations | 1.5 hour

Individual class presentations
Feedback – what can you offer classmates to help their plans?

Class VI – Celebration

Optional gathering – what went right, what would you do differently, what are you most excited about?
Plant swap – Any extra plants? Let’s trade!

To receive certification: Individual site visits will be conducted by Stark SWCD staff to verify rain garden, collect photos and data, celebrate a job well done, and present certification metal sign.