



Landscape Solutions

Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District
Conservation Series

Rainwater collects on land because of soil types, location, and upstream issues. For many drainage problems that do not threaten a structure there are cost-effective alternatives that reduce the amount of stormwater going to streams. Below are practical and natural options for eliminating extra water as a homeowner, dependent on an individual's expectations.

The Right Tree in the Right Place

Trees reduce the amount of water running into streams and/or causing wet spots in your yard. Additional rainfall collects on leaf surfaces and evaporates before it reaches the ground.



[Coffee Tree in Landscape]

Encourage Water-Tolerant Species

If grass is not growing in wet spots on your lawn, consider planting water-tolerant species, such as inkberry or silky dogwood. This reduces maintenance costs and attracts wildlife. A small depression (swale) may also allow you to install a mini-wetland (an area 20,000 sq. ft.+ may be eligible for design assistance from our office).



[Silky Dogwood-Native to OH]

Rain Barrels

Collecting rainwater from rooftops and storing it for later use prevents rooftop runoff, which carries pollutants into waterways. Lawns actually prefer rainwater since it has not been treated with chemicals. Most barrels have mesh screens to keep out leaves, shingle grit and mosquitoes.



[Resident with Rain Barrel]

Make a Natural Water Feature

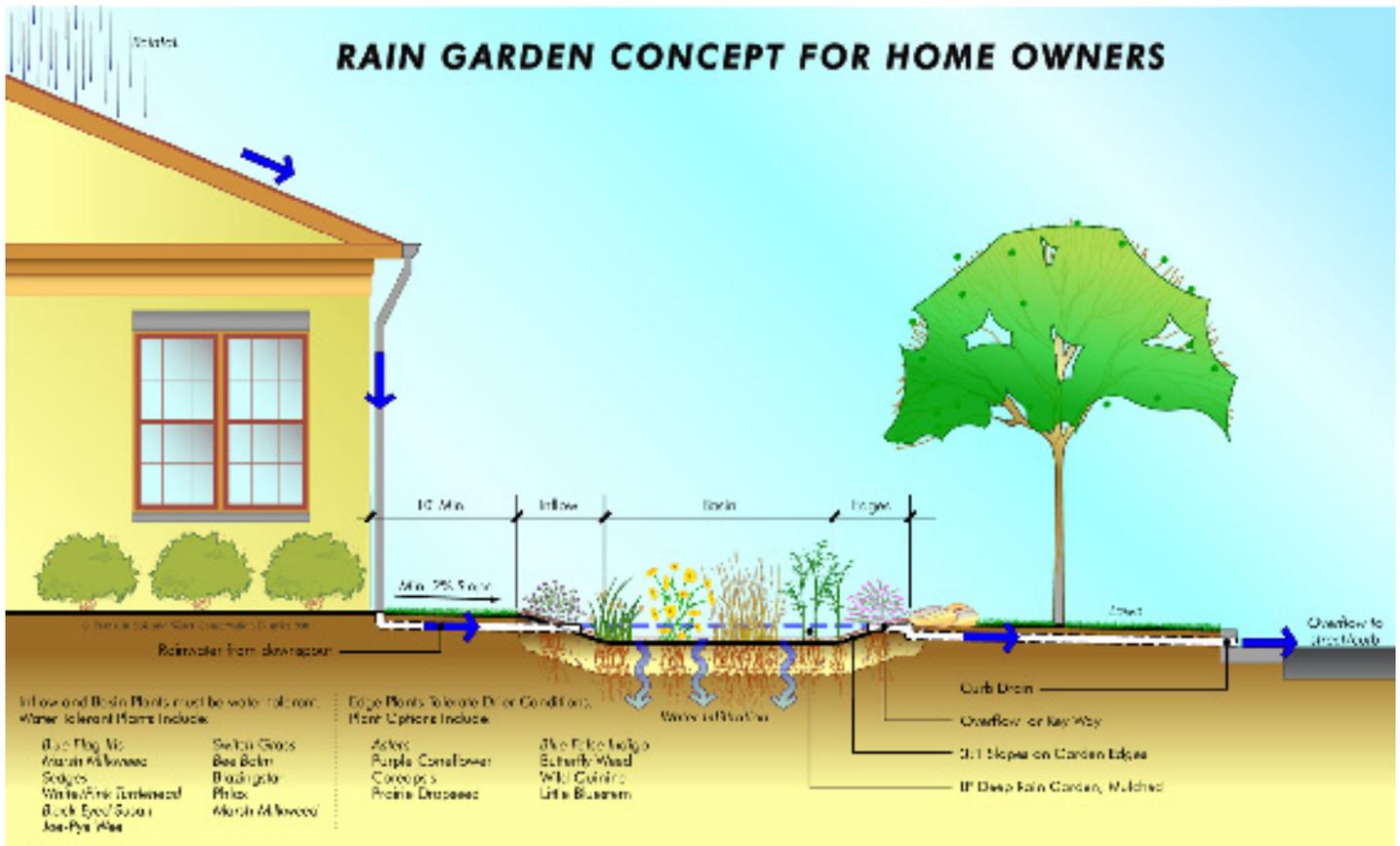
If there is a wet spot in your yard you can create a water feature. Consult with a local nursery, landscaper, library, or Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District for information.

Keep Structures out of Special Flood Hazard Areas

Residents unknowingly build on Special Flood Hazard Areas, which are the site of initial flooding during a massive rain event. Impervious surfaces increase the risk of flooding. Conservation easements can help protect these sensitive areas.

For information on water-tolerant tree and plant species native to Ohio, contact OSU Extension or your local nursery.

Contact Franklin SWCD at (614)486-9613 for questions regarding rain barrels, swales, and easements.



Divert Downspouts to Create a Rain Garden

Water from gutters is often diverted down a driveway or a spot near the corner of a house. In some cases, it empties to the street into a storm drain. Homeowners can redirect this runoff into a rain garden, provided it is constructed at least 10 feet from their foundation. These shallow depressions allow water to sink in slowly, and provide habitat. Native plants that withstand “wet feet” on occasion are usually used. For more information regarding rain gardens, feel free to contact Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District at (614) 486-9613 or www.franklinswcd.org or visit the Central Ohio Raingarden Initiative (CORGI) at www.centralohioraingardens.org



1404 Goodale Boulevard, Suite 100
 Columbus, OH 43212
 (614) 486-9613
www.franklinswcd.org