What is a rain garden?

A rain garden is a garden of native shrubs, perennials, and flowers planted in a small depression, which is generally formed on a natural slope. It is designed to temporarily hold and soak in rain water runoff that flows from roofs, driveways, patios, or lawns.

Why should we use rain gardens?

1. Rain gardens are good for the environment!

   - Water entering lakes and streams from storm drains undergoes no treatment

   - Water in Albert Lea drains to Chapeau, Pickerel, Fountain, Goose, and Albert Lea Lakes

   - The soil and roots of a rain garden filter out pollutants, while the clean water is able to sink down and return to the water table

   - Storm water collected in a rain garden doesn’t contribute to flooding events

   - Native plants are adapted to local conditions and are easy to maintain once established. Plus, they attract beneficial birds, butterflies and other pollinators.

   - A berm holds water in the garden during heavy rains.

   - Gutters & Down Spouts
   
   - Deep Roots
   
   - Berm

www.sloatgardens.com
Rain gardens benefit homeowners!

Gardens can be designed to match individual styles

- Choose flowers with various blooming times to have flowers all summer
- Add decorative stones, garden ornaments, or birdbaths

- Rain gardens provide food and shelter for birds, butterflies, and mosquito-eating dragonflies!
- Many plants used in rain gardens are hardy and low maintenance
- If located and installed correctly, rain gardens can remove standing water in your yard

How can I get started?

Start by learning more!

- There are many informational manuals available. One such manual is here: https://bit.ly/2zSe7AR
- Visit the Fountain Lake Park rain garden here in Albert Lea
- Contact the Shell Rock River Watershed District. You may be eligible for a cost share if you live within the District!

Other resources:
The Groundwater Foundation: https://www.groundwater.org/action/home(raingardens.html
EPA: https://www.epa.gov/soakuptherain/soak-rain-rain-gardens
Rain Garden Network: http://www.raingardennetwork.com/
And many more!