



Rainscaping Education Program

Demonstration Rain Garden

County Name Noble

Background Information

The rain garden is a small demonstration garden behind the Albion branch of the Noble County Public Library. The rain garden may diminish flooding in certain areas of the property. Additionally, this rain garden could reduce salts and other pollutants from the nearby parking lot through filtration. This site on the property was also chosen because the location is highly visible from inside the library. This 300-square foot garden will serve as an educational tool, inspiring others to consider installing their own rain garden.

Due to a large rain event two days prior and another rain the night before, installation happened in two parts. The first installation was completed by Rainscaping Education Program participants and the second half was completed by the Noble County Master Gardeners on a later date.

Funding and support for the project included the Noble County Master Gardeners, the NIPSCO Environmental Action Grant, the Amelia Frehse Charitable Trust Grant, and Friends of the Noble County Public Library. Plants were donated by Purdue Extension Master Gardeners, Blue Fox Farms, and Blue River Native Nursery. OnSite Tree Services donated the site prep work and mulch.



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Garden Design: Plantings and Information

Plant Scientific Name	Common Name
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Common yarrow
<i>Asclepias incarnata</i>	Swamp milkweed
<i>Carex vulpinoidea</i>	Fox sedge
<i>Echinacea purpurea</i>	Purple coneflower
<i>Eutrochium fistulosum</i>	Joe Pye weed
<i>Helenium autumnale</i>	Common sneezeweed
<i>Hibiscus moscheutos</i>	Swamp rose mallow
<i>Iris versicolor</i>	Blue flag iris
<i>Liatris spicata</i>	Great blue lobelia
<i>Lobelia siphilitica</i>	Blue cardinal flower
<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>	Black-eyed Susan
<i>Senna hebecarpa</i>	Wild senna
<i>Silphium perfoliatum</i>	Cup plant
<i>Sisyrinchium angustifolium</i>	Blue-eyed grass



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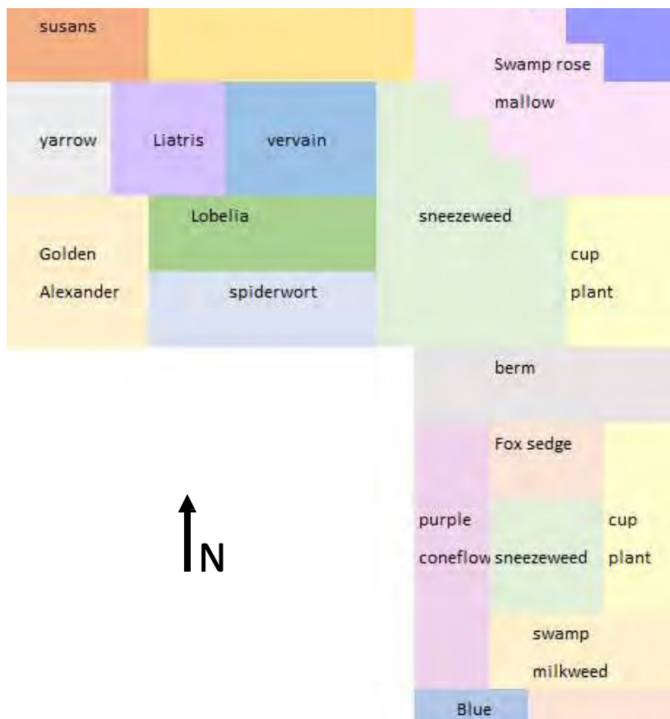


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Garden Design: Plantings and Information

Plant Scientific Name	Common Name
<i>Thalictrum dasycarpum</i>	Meadow rue
<i>Tradescantia virginiana</i>	Virginia spiderwort
<i>Verbena hastata</i>	Blue vervain
<i>Vernonia gigantea</i>	Tall ironweed
<i>Zizia aurea</i>	Golden Alexander



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Maintenance Plan: Establishment Period

The garden should be weeded every few weeks for the first 6 months, then once a month after as needed.

Large rocks will be placed at the front to give a visual buffer from the parking lot.

Tracking progress of the garden:

- Label plants so workers know what plants should or should not be removed
- Take photos of the garden annually to show maturation of the garden over time

Maintenance Plan: Post Establishment Period

Plant Care

- High levels of phosphorus (P) and potassium (K) were shown in the preliminary soil test. At planting, we added ammonium sulfate and elemental sulfur to pull down the pH of 7.2. No need for additional fertilizer unless a soil test reflects otherwise. Dead head as needed to control unwanted spread. Prune dead vegetation and plants that have grown too large.

Watering

- Water as needed, especially in the first year. Once plants are established, watering should not be necessary except during prolonged dry periods.

Weeding

- During the first few years, weeding should take place monthly as needed. Over time, plants will fill in and weeding will not be as necessary. Hand pulling of weeds should be sufficient. Weeding will be provided by the Noble County Master Gardeners with support from the library maintenance staff.

Mulch

- Approximately 3 inches should be maintained in the garden. We used a hardwood shredded mulch.



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Resource Contact

Purdue Extension- Noble County: <https://extension.purdue.edu/county/noble/>
Suzie Pender: Noble County Public Library: 260-636-7197
Purdue Extension- Steuben County:
<https://extension.purdue.edu/county/steuben/>

About the Rainscaping Education Program

The Rainscaping Education Program is a bi-state partnership which offers state-wide training for Master Gardeners, conservation agencies and organizations, stormwater professionals, and landscape companies and consultants.

The two day workshop sessions cover an introduction to rainscaping and rain gardens with specific modules for rain garden site selection, plant selection and garden design, installation, maintenance, and community engagement.

Workshops include hands-on activities, interactive discussions, and field trips to community rainscaping projects. Participants also gain experience through creation of a demonstration rain garden with community partners in a public space.

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