

DEMO RAIN GARDEN

Lake County - Hammond, IN

PURDUE EXTENSION
**RAINSCAPING
EDUCATION
PROGRAM**

Background Information

Over the summer of 2022, two structures were built that channel water into a rain barrel that can be used to water an on-site community garden. A rain garden was designed then installed near the rain barrel to capture any overflow. Flowerbeds, a path, and a meditation labyrinth were also installed to create a community space. The site is located on a corner plot of land on the edge of a residential area. Across the street from the site is a set of train tracks, separating the residential area from a commercial area. The site itself has no hookup to city water supplies. This project serves to provide water to the community garden and revitalize the area, thereby countering the effects of redlining in the area.



The project was led by Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant, through Purdue University Extension, who worked closely with The Gate church. This faith-based group owns the Inner Mission Community Garden and will maintain the site upon completion of the project. Purdue's Agricultural and Biological Engineering department designed and led the installation of the structures and irrigation system. The Landscape Architecture program created the preliminary design for the path and meditation labyrinth. The City of Hammond issued permits for the structures and provided guidance in understanding local ordinances. Several volunteers from these organizations along with community members also assisted in the implementation of the project, including Purdue University Extension employees in Lake County, Indiana.



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Garden Design: Plantings and Information

Plant Scientific Name	Common Name	Number Used
<i>Asclepias incarnata</i>	Swamp Milkweed	3
<i>Carex vulpinoidea</i>	Fox Sedge	5
<i>Echinacea purpurea</i>	Purple Coneflower	3
<i>Liatris spicata</i>	Dense Blazing Star	3
<i>Symph yotrichum novae-angliae</i>	New England Aster	3
<i>Solidago ridellii</i>	Riddell's Goldenrod	3
<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>	Little Bluestem	3
<i>Zizia aurea</i>	Golden Alexander	3



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Maintenance Plan: Establishment Period

- Weeding: Every 2-4 weeks for the first 6 months
- Watering: As needed for 30 minutes at a time up to one month after installation

Maintenance Plan: General Maintenance

- Raking: Rake mulch back into path monthly or after heavy precipitation
- Border: Realign pavers following design as needed
- Cleanliness: Remove debris every two weeks
- Mulching: Check monthly and add mulch as needed to maintain depth
- Weeding: Once a month
- Watering: As needed during dry periods lasting 1 week or more

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Maintenance Plan: Seasonal Maintenance

- Spring: Prune dead vegetation and plants that are too large, replace dead plants, re-mulch pathways
- Summer: Check berm around garden for erosion every two weeks and repair as needed
- Fall: Remove diseased plants

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Resource Contact

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About the Purdue Rainscaping Education Program

The Purdue Rainscaping Education Program offers state-wide training for Purdue 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.

