

Lake Mohawk Preservation Foundation opportunities...

BENEFITS OF INSTALLING NATIVE PLANTS IN A RAIN GARDEN

- ✓ Most native plants produce long root systems which loosen the soil creating a sponge zone where pollutants and contaminants are safely captured, filtered and prevented from entering waterways.
- ✓ Their deep root systems lessen impacts of floods and droughts.
- ✓ Native trees, shrubs, flowers and grasses provide biodiversity and preserve species in our developed communities.
- ✓ They are of high habitat value providing food, shelter and nesting areas for wildlife, especially birds, butterflies and beneficial insects.
- ✓ These plants are naturally resilient to harmful insects and disease thus eliminating the need for pesticide application.
- ✓ Since they are best adapted to local conditions, chemical fertilizers are not needed.
- ✓ Water conservation is another benefit since once they are established in the right place there is no need for supplemental watering.
- ✓ Indigenous plants absorb water more efficiently than turf grasses, survive in both dry and wet conditions and thrive without a lot of care.

Contributed by Peggy Laddey, Master Gardener and Foundation volunteer

More at <http://lakemohawkcc.com/preservation>