



LEOPOLD CENTER
FOR SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

Completed Special Project

Reduced stormwater runoff via increased use of rain gardens

Project ID: ESP2007-02

Abstract

Rain gardens, shallow depressions filled with native plants, capture and filter pollutants from runoff by increasing soil filtration. The project investigators installed two rain gardens in Ames, Iowa and developed an outreach program to educate landowners about native landscaping.

Key Question: Can urban demonstration projects increase acceptance and establishment of rain gardens in Ames?

Findings: Demonstration projects and education programs, including partial financial assistance, can help generate interest in rain gardens and ensure they are properly designed, installed and maintained.

Lead investigator: Inger Lamb, Prairie Rivers of Iowa RC&D

Co-Investigator(s):

Anita Maher-Lewis, AML Consulting

Year of grant completion: 2008

This special project was part of the Leopold Center's Ecology Initiative.

Topics: Water quality, quantity and management

RELATED INFORMATION

This is a special project and has no final reports. Contact the lead investigator at inger@prrcd.org for more information.

[Sample text for rain garden sign](#)

[Photos from Ames Water Treatment installation](#)

[Practices to Improve Water Quality](#) fact sheet

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