

Green Tips for Homeowners

Lot Coverage



In order to reduce stormwater runoff from your lot, minimize the amount of paving or consider a pervious paving system that would allow rainwater to infiltrate into the ground.

Rain Gardens



Like rain barrels, rain gardens are a relatively new innovation that help utilize the water falling on your roof instead of sending it into a storm sewer. Essentially, rain gardens are depressed areas of a yard where water runs directly from your downspout. These gardens are typically planted with flowering perennials and decorative grasses and are designed to survive very wet and very dry conditions. Rain gardens are relatively easy to construct, require minimal maintenance, and help keep precious rainwater on site for your lawn to drink! Several local landscaping companies have experience constructing rain gardens and more information about them can be found on the websites highlighted below.

<http://raingarden.il.gov/>

<http://www.appliedeco.com/RainGarden.cfm>

<http://cecommerce.uwex.edu/pdfs/GWQ037.PDF>

Rain Barrels



Rain barrels are a relatively new product on the market but are very affordable and useful. Rain barrels come in a variety of sizes, shapes, and colors and attach directly to your downspout. The water from a rainfall is collected into the barrel and a spigot is attached to provide water that you can use for your landscaping.

Rain Barrels

<http://rainbarrelguide.com/>

<http://www.rainbarrelsandmore.com/?referrer=goograinbarrel>

http://www.composters.com/main_water.html?gclid=CJv44uqC4oMCFSoClgodzhWI6Q

Native Plants and Natural Landscaping



Illinois existed mostly as a prairie landscape before modern development. The plants that thrived here developed deep root systems that took advantage of rainfall, survived through long periods of drought, and provided essential biomass that created our agriculturally rich soils. Because these plants already know how to survive in our climate, they are especially suited for our landscapes. The added benefit? Most of them have beautiful flowers and decorative features! Filling your planting beds with native perennials and grasses will create a low maintenance, highly attractive landscaping.

You can find more information about Illinois Native Plants at:

<http://www.il.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/plants/npg/index.html>

<http://www.chicagowilderness.org/wildchi/landscape/index.cfm>

Natural Landscaping

In essence, natural landscaping means minimizing lawn, which is usually the highest maintenance and chemical loving part of a yard. To start, you should determine how much lawn you need. The lawn should be thought of as the active space of the overall yard in the back yard and the transitional ground plane element in the front yard. Additionally, using organic based fertilizers is much safer for the overall environment. Once determined, the remaining area should be designed as planting beds that include trees, shrubs, perennials, and grasses.

Orland Park Tree List

A list of recommended canopy tree species for Orland Park can be found in the [Land Development Code, Section 6-305.](#)