

Project Rain Garden

Protecting Little Traverse Bay, One Rain Garden at a Time

Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council

Introduction:

Project Rain Garden is a cost-share program that helps offset costs associated with the installation of new residential rain gardens. The Project will cover up to 40% or \$1500, whichever is lower, toward each rain garden. In total, twelve residential rain gardens within the City of Petoskey limits will receive assistance. A rain garden that is funded by this grant will help others learn about rain gardens and encourage people to create their own rain garden. Therefore, grant recipients must agree to these educational efforts:

- Promote the Petoskey rain garden project by allowing the Watershed Council to:
 - Photo document your rain garden at various stages that may include before, during, and immediately after installation, as well as subsequent years to monitor its progress.
 - Allow the rain garden details and photos to be published on Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council's website (www.watershedcouncil.org), Facebook, or other publications.
 - Place a *Protecting Little Traverse Bay, One Rain Garden at a Time* sign in the rain garden as provided by the Watershed Council.

Applications and Project Awards:

- Applications will be accepted until all 12 rain gardens are fulfilled or the end of the growing season 2018, whichever happens first.
- Applications will be reviewed and awards will be made as they are received.
- The process includes:
 1. A review of the submitted residential rain garden application.
 2. A site visit to determine if the proposed location is suitable for a rain garden.
 3. For those sites deemed appropriate, the Watershed Council will provide an agreement form outlining the conditions of the award. Once the agreement form is returned, with the property owner's signature, the Watershed Council will notify you with the counter-signed agreement and project coordination may begin.

Eligibility:

The following criteria are the minimum eligibility standards that must be met for the application to be considered:

1. The proposed project is within Petoskey's city limits and will be located on a residential parcel. Applications from individuals other than the property owner will be accepted IF they have the written permission of the property owner to apply.
2. The rain garden is designed and constructed in a way that will reduce stormwater runoff and improve water quality.
3. Michigan native plants and their cultivars are the dominant vegetation used in the rain garden. Under no circumstances will invasive plant species be allowed. Refer to: www.habitatmatters.org/uploads/9/5/0/6/95066352/invasive_ornamental_plants_gbb_update.pdf for a list of prohibited species.

The following criteria will be utilized to evaluate the applications:

1. Ability to help address localized stormwater issues.
2. Amount of impervious surface area treated by the rain garden.
3. Creativity of design and application of appropriate design basics.

4. Diversity of plant species and degree to which native plants and their cultivars are used.
5. Presence or absence of other stormwater treatment best management practices serving the location.
6. Other unique features as presented by the applicant.

Eligible Expenses:

This cost-share program will reimburse 40% of project expenses up to a maximum of \$1,500. The following items are eligible costs:

1. Native perennial plants, seeds, or native cultivars.
2. Shredded hardwood mulch.
3. Soil amendments.
4. Materials to connect the impervious area runoff to the rain garden.
5. Labor and equipment rental costs.

Do not start construction of your project until receipt of a counter-signed agreement from Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council. COST SHARE FUNDING IS A REIMBURSEMENT for documented costs occurring AFTER the notification of grant award. After all program requirements have been met and approved, including a site visit to verify project completion and success, a request for reimbursement may be made.

The reimbursement request must include:

- Receipts for materials and services purchased (a form will be provided)
- An itemized list of donated materials and their value needs to be provided
- The number of hours of labor (documented in the activity log)

All reimbursement requests for projects completed must be submitted no later than September 30, 2018. Reimbursement requests are typically processed within 30 days of receipt. **Costs incurred before the project was approved will not be reimbursed.**

Information about **Michigan Native Plants:**

Michigan Native Plant Producers Association

Providing nursery-grown native plants and seed from Michigan genotypes!

www.mnppa.org

What are Michigan native plants?

Plant species that occurred in Michigan prior to European settlement. The University of Michigan Herbarium plant database, michiganflora.net, can be used to determine if a species is native or not.

Why native plants?

- Native plants have several characteristics that make them appealing as garden and landscaping plants.
- They are naturally adapted to the soils and weather conditions of the area, so they need little care once they've become established. If they're planted in the proper location, they do not need fertilization, irrigation, or winter protection. When used in place of lawn, they decrease the time and expense required for repeated mowing.
- They provide food and cover for wildlife. Native plants attract butterflies, dragonflies, birds, and a host of other creatures that provide movement and interest to a garden. Landscapes containing native plants can help offset the dramatic loss of habitat resulting from rapid development.
- They improve the quality of the environment by slowing stormwater runoff, preventing erosion,

and enriching the soil. The deep roots of native plants provide a path for water to seep into the ground, thereby preventing runoff from speeding overland, taking soil with it. Also, the use of native plants in landscapes can reduce the air and noise pollution created by mowers and other yard equipment, the water pollution caused by fertilizers and pesticides, and the loss of natural areas by invasions of alien plants that have escaped from traditional gardens.

Native plants can be found for every type of environment, from dry and sunny to soggy and shady. With their variety of colors, heights, foliage, and bloom times, they can add beauty and interest to any landscape.

Note:

There are many other nurseries that offer Michigan native plants, but not all of them grow them from Michigan seed sources. If you cannot obtain native plants grown from Michigan seed, then the next best option are plants grown as close to Michigan as possible. These plants will share more genetics with their Upper Midwest counterparts and be more adapted to our climate, offer more wildlife value, and be more resistant to pests and disease in our area.

Cultivars of Michigan native plants will be acceptable planting options within the rain gardens, as they are readily accessible (they can be found at most nurseries). However, to learn more about why non-cultivars of native species are a better choice in most cases, refer to: www.wildones.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/12/Nativars-Statement.pdf

Landscape Contractors:

Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council works with several landscapers that are experienced with installing rain gardens. We are happy to provide their business names to residents who are in need of a professional landscaper. We also encourage other landscapers to become familiar with rain gardens. We welcome additional interest and would be happy to talk about rain gardens with your current landscaper!

Petoskey Rain Garden Project Application:

Please submit pages 4 and 5. You may submit electronically or a printed copy. Remember to keep a copy for your files.

Please Note: if you aren't sure about how to answer a question, that's OK!
Feel free to call with any questions.

Please submit your complete application to:

jen@watershedcouncil.org

[231-347-1181 x 112](tel:231-347-1181)

OR

Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council

426 Bay St.

Petoskey, MI 49770

1. Name of applicant
2. Applicant's address
3. Address of proposed rain garden (if different from applicant's address)(must be within Petoskey's city limits)
4. Applicant's daytime phone number
5. Applicant's email
6. Explain why you think your site would be a good location for a rain garden (including any current stormwater issues on your property).

7. My rain garden will be (check one):

Self-designed

Contractor-designed

8. Rain gardens need weeding, watering, and mulching to preserve their health and function. At a minimum, you will need to cut or pull dead vegetation each spring and weed it 2 to 3 times per growing season. Check which box indicates your maintenance plan:

Self-maintained

Contracted Maintenance

9. Does the proposed location meet the following criteria? (Check box if yes.)

Garden is at least 10' from buildings, including those on neighboring properties

Garden is not over underground utilities (electric, phone, cable, storm sewer, sanitary sewer, water)

Garden is not over septic system

Slope < 12% (12' rise over 100' distance)

10. What impervious surfaces do you plan to capture runoff from? (Check all that apply.)

House roof

Garage roof

Driveway

Walkway or patio