GUIDELINES FOR HOME RAIN GARDENS

1. Select a Rain Garden Location Which Intercepts Stormwater Runoff
   • Near a downspout
   • In a front yard swale
   NOTE: Municipal approval needed for rain gardens in a public easement

2. Determine Rain Garden Size and Shape
   • Map where rainwater flows and collects
   • Start small...you can expand the garden in the future

3. Check Your Soils for Drainage
   • Read SOCWA brochure for a simple drainage test
   • For poorly drained sites, 70% compost and 30% sharp sand is recommended
   • Do not use purchased top soil

4. Select a Rain Garden Soil Mix
   • Use native wildflowers and shrubs suited to the site
   • Label your plants and keep records
   • See www.socwa.org for recommended plant species

5. Plant the Rain Garden
   • Use a natural organic mulch spread in a 2 inch layer
   • Refresh the mulch annually

6. Mulch the Rain Garden
   • Use a natural organic mulch spread in a 2 inch layer
   • Refresh the mulch annually

7. Maintain the Rain Garden
   • Weed, edit, divide, and replant as needed
   • Edge the garden twice per year to keep grass out
   • See www.socwa.org for rain garden maintenance guide

For further information: www.socwa.org

Funded through a grant to SOCWA from the Rouge River National Wet Weather Demonstration Project, EPA grant no. XP-995743-09.