

Our RAIN GARDEN - Smyrna Elementary School is MAKING A DIFFERENCE!



A Solution to Pollution

As natural areas such as forests and fields are replaced by homes, schools and businesses, less stormwater (water from rain and snow events) is allowed to soak into the ground. Instead, stormwater runs over developed areas picking up pollutants along the way, and deposits them into our streams and estuaries. These pollutants can be harmful to us and to our coastal environment.

In an effort to keep polluted stormwater out of our waterways, a rain garden was installed at this location. Students and teachers from Smyrna Elementary School planted this garden and continue to care for it.



Rain gardens work for our schools by:

- * providing students with an outdoor, 'hands-on' classroom
- * connecting students with the environment
- * educating young citizens and tomorrow's leaders for a better future

Rain gardens work for us by:

- * increasing stormwater absorption and available groundwater
- * protecting communities from drainage and flooding problems
- * protecting our rivers, lakes and estuaries by removing pollutants
- * providing wildlife habitats for insects, birds and small mammals
- * enhancing the beauty of our schools and neighborhoods



Look and Learn

A rain garden mimics nature and works much like a forest, marsh or wetland where stormwater is filtered. Rain gardens are easy to install and maintain, and can be very beautiful. This makes them appealing for homeowners, businesses and developers that wish to join the effort to keep our waters clean.

Our rain garden replaced a typical road ditch and was planted with a variety of native plants. When it rains or snows, runoff from the street and parking lot is directed into the rain garden where pollutants are removed as the runoff soaks through the layers of mulch, soil and plant roots. The filtered stormwater is then absorbed into the ground and later released into the tidal ditch.

