

Frequently Asked Questions

How much does a rain garden cost? A 150 square foot residential rain garden can cost anywhere from \$3 - \$15 per square foot depending on the size and number of plants and the use of optional landscape features such as retaining walls, edging, etc.

What are other benefits of rain gardens besides water quality improvements and reducing community flooding risks? Rain gardens provide many additional benefits such as adding beauty and value to neighborhoods and providing wildlife habitat to attract beneficial birds, butterflies, and dragonflies.

Do rain gardens breed mosquitos? No. Rain gardens hold water for no longer than 48 hours - far shorter than the 7 days of standing water needed to breed mosquitos. In between rainfalls the rain gardens are dry.

Do rain gardens require maintenance? Yes. Like any perennial flower garden, rain gardens need to be watered the first year and weeded semi-annually. Filling in bare spots with mulch is also recommended.

Why use native prairie plants? Prairie plants native to Minnesota have deep roots that help break up compacted soils, even clay, to infiltrate water. They are also naturally drought, flood, and pest resistant.

Reach out today to find out more about how you can incorporate this program into your own yard!

Contact **Stormwater Specialist/Project Coordinator Nick Macklem** | 763-592-6765
nmacklem@newhopemn.gov



City of New Hope Rain Garden Cost Share Program

Sponsored by
THE CITY OF NEW HOPE
in partnership with
**Meadow Lake Watershed Association
and Friends of Northwood Lake
Association**



What is a Rain Garden?

A rain garden is a bowl-shaped garden that is built where it will capture rain and snowmelt (stormwater runoff) before the water carries pollutants to a storm sewer or nearby stream, lake or river.

Well-designed rain gardens:

- Improve water quality of our local lakes
- Recharge local groundwater
- Reduce flooding and erosion
- Attract birds and butterflies
- Protect fish and aquatic animals
- Add beauty to your landscape

Allowing rainwater runoff to soak into the ground improves the water quality of our rivers and lakes, reduces the risk of localized flooding, and recharges aquifers.



- ✓ **Capture:** A rain garden catches runoff and holds standing water for no more than 48 hours.
- ✓ **Soak:** Deep-rooted plants loosen the soil, creating a sponge zone. Water soaks in and groundwater aquifer are recharged.
- ✓ **Filter:** In the soil, microbes break down pollutants and nutrients washed in by the rain.

Less water down the
storm sewer means
cleaner lakes & streams!

Rain Garden Cost Share Program

In 2025 the City of New Hope is awarding cost share grants to install five (5) residential rain gardens in an effort to improve water quality of our streams and Meadow Lake and Northwoods Lake. The average size of a rain garden project will be approximately 150 square feet with an estimated value of \$1,900. Homeowners will be required to pay \$500. The City will fund the remaining portion of the rain garden project. Grants will be awarded to the highest-ranking projects. This program is available to all residential homeowners within New Hope city limits.

How to Apply

1. Apply: Application forms are available at City of New Hope Public Works or downloaded from the City of New Hope website: www.newhopemn.gov

Applications will be accepted until October 31, 2024.

2. Schedule a site visit: Contact Nick Macklem, City of New Hope Stormwater Specialist for a site evaluation.

Nick Macklem, Stormwater Specialist
763-592-6765 nmacklem@newhopemn.gov

3. Get help! Metro Blooms will provide landscape design and technical assistance throughout the application and construction process.

4. Wait: City staff will award grants based on certain project criteria such as water quality improvements, volume reduction, public benefit, and cost. Grantees will be notified by December 2, 2024.

5. Construct: After receiving a Grant Award Letter you can begin to work with Metro Blooms on the design and installation of your rain garden. Metro Blooms will provide a step-by-step design plan and supervision of rain garden installation.

6. Cost Share: To begin the project, the homeowner will pay the City of New Hope \$500.

