**What is a Rain Garden?**
Rain Gardens are attractive landscape features with perennial native plants which don’t mind getting “wet feet”. Built in a saucer shape, rain gardens are designed to increase infiltration allowing rain and snowmelt to seep naturally into the ground. Native plants assist by soaking up water and nutrients while further enhancing infiltration by breaking up the soil with their roots, which can grow as deep as 15 feet.

**What are the benefits of a Rain Garden?**
Rain Gardens can provide multiple benefits to our soil and water resources:
- They recharge groundwater supply, help remove pollutants from storm water runoff before it enters local waterways and provide habitat for birds and butterflies.

**Why do we need Rain Gardens?**
Over the years, development of our land has resulted in compacted soil and an increase in impervious surfaces such as rooftops, parking lots and roads. During rainstorms, instead of being absorbed and filtered by the soil, the storm water runs off the land, which contributes to flooding, erosion and water quality issues. Rain gardens are one measure that can help to increase the infiltration of storm water.

**Why is this Rain Garden Here?**
Rain Gardens can be placed near a structure to catch only roof runoff, such as near a downspout, or further out on the property to collect water from the lawn and impervious areas, like driveways, sidewalks or basketball courts.

This particular Rain Garden was constructed to collect and treat storm water generated from a portion of the surrounding parking lot flowing into the 250 sq ft rain garden.

**Site**
A rain garden is typically 5 to 10 percent the size of the impervious surface that generates runoff.

**Depth**
A typical rain garden is between four and eight inches deep. This depth, proportionate to surface area, helps ensure water will infiltrate quickly and not pond.

**Location**
Rain gardens are often located at the end of a roof gutter or drain spout, as a buffer between the lawn and the street.

**Soil Amendments**
A good soil mix for rain gardens is 65 percent sand, 15 percent topsoil, and 20 percent compost.

**Plant Choices**
Choose native plants based on need for light, moisture and soil. Vary plant structure, height, and flower color for seasonal appeal and butterfly habitat.

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**Construction**
Constructed in May 2015 by an Eagle Scout Candidate from Euclid Boy Scout Troop 161, supported by the City of Euclid, Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District, Friends of Euclid Creek and the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District.

To receive a rain garden manual to learn how to plant your own rain garden, contact the Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District at 216-524-6380, or download the manual at this following website: http://www.cuyahogawcd.org/