

Rain Garden Opinion Survey

The University of Wisconsin-Madison and Lake Ripley Management District would like to know what you think about rain gardens. Rain gardens are shallow depressions planted with native, deep-rooting grasses and wildflowers. They are landscape features designed to capture and soak up excess rain water. Water that washes off roofs, driveways, and other hard surfaces gets directed to the garden where it is absorbed by the plants and soil.



Plant Choices

Light, soil, and moisture along with desired height and flower colors determine the mix of plants.

Location

Often at the end of a downspout or roof gutter as a buffer between the lawn and the street.

Depth

Typical rain gardens are between 4 and 8 inches deep. This allows for water to be absorbed into the ground quickly and not pool

Size

A rain garden is generally 5-10% the size of the impervious surface that generates runoff. For example a single downspout could be directed to an appropriately sized garden.

Because *everyone* who lives in the Lake Ripley Watershed has a stake in the future of the lake, it is important that we hear from you. The following survey is designed so that it can be completed in less than 15 minutes, and your responses will be kept confidential. Please return the survey by October 1st in order in guarantee your responses will be recorded.

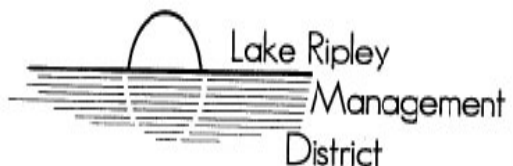
As an added incentive...

Survey respondents can enter into a drawing for all the plants you will need for a 100 square foot rain garden (valued at \$350) from Agrecol!

Go to their website (www.agrecol.com) to look at their very extensive plant catalog.

Help Lake Ripley, Help the University of Wisconsin, and Help yourself at the same time.

We thank you for your generously given time.



Example of how to answer questions:

Strongly disagree Strongly agree
(You slightly agree with the question or statement)

MY CURRENT SITUATION...

How many years have you owned property near Lake Ripley? _____

Residency Status: Part-time/seasonal Permanent/year-round

Age: _____

1. Prior to seeing the above description and illustration, my familiarity with the idea of rain gardens was:

Very low Very high

2. I am certain that I currently have a functioning rain garden on my property.

Definitely no Definitely yes

HOW I WOULD BE AFFECTED BY BUILDING A RAIN GARDEN...

3. For me to personally build a rain garden on my property in the next two years would be:

Very difficult Very easy
Very unpleasant Very enjoyable
Very expensive Very affordable
Very time-consuming Not time-consuming

4. For me to hire someone to build a rain garden on my property in the next two years would be:

Very necessary Very unnecessary
Very difficult Very easy
Very expensive Very affordable

5. Building a rain garden on my property would mean more time maintaining my yard.

Very unlikely Very likely

6. Spending more time on maintaining my yard is:

Very undesirable Very desirable

MY CAPACITY TO BUILD A RAIN GARDEN...

7. I have the physical ability to build a rain garden.

Definitely no Definitely yes

8. I have, or could easily acquire, the knowledge needed to build a rain garden.

Definitely no Definitely yes

9. I have the financial means to build a rain garden.

Definitely no Definitely yes

10. It is solely up to me whether or not to build a rain garden on my property.

Definitely no Definitely yes

HOW MY PROPERTY WILL BE AFFECTED BY A RAIN GARDEN...

11. If I build a rain garden in my yard, my property value will:

Definitely decrease Definitely increase

12. Increasing my property value is:

Not important to me Very important to me

13. Building a rain garden on my property would improve the appearance of my property.

Very unlikely Very likely

14. The appearance of my property is:

Not important to me Very important to me

15. If I build a rain garden, it will increase the amount of wildlife I attract to my yard.

Very unlikely Very likely

16. Increasing the wildlife habitat in my yard would be:

Very undesirable Very desirable

17. Building a rain garden in my yard would create standing water that could attract mosquitoes.

Definitely no Definitely yes

18. Preventing standing water that could breed mosquitoes in my yard is:

Not important to me Very important to me

19. Building a rain garden in my yard would make it more likely that I'd get water in my basement.

Definitely no Definitely yes

20. Preventing water in my basement is:

Not important to me Very important to me

21. Having a yard that is mostly lawn is:

Not important to me Very important to me

22. Having a garden is:

Not important to me Very important to me

HOW LAKE RIPLEY WOULD BE AFFECTED...

23. If I build a rain garden on my property, it will improve the water quality of Lake Ripley.
Very unlikely Very likely
24. Improving the water quality of Lake Ripley is:
Not important to me Very important to me
25. Compared to other actions I could take to impact water quality in Lake Ripley, my building a rain garden would have:
No impact Very big impact

ANTICIPATED OPINIONS OF OTHERS...

26. If I build a rain garden in my yard, my neighbors would:
Strongly disapprove Strongly approve
27. What my neighbors recommend is:
Not important to me Very important to me
28. If I build a rain garden in my yard, my family would:
Strongly disapprove Strongly approve
29. What my family recommends is:
Not important to me Very important to me
30. If I build a rain garden in my yard, my friends would:
Strongly disapprove Strongly approve
31. What my friends recommend is:
Not important to me Very important to me

LIKELIHOOD OF BUILDING A RAIN GARDEN...

32. I (or somebody in my household) will build a rain garden on my property in the next two years.
Very unlikely Very likely
33. I (or somebody in my household) will hire someone to build a rain garden on my property in the next two years.
Very unlikely Very likely
34. I (or somebody in my household) will build a rain garden on my property in the next two years if I am given detailed instructions how to do so.
Very unlikely Very likely

35. I (or somebody in my household) will build a rain garden on my property in the next two years if I received cost-sharing assistance.
 Very unlikely Very likely
36. I (or somebody in my household) will build a rain garden on my property in the next two years if some of my friends and neighbors also build one.
 Very unlikely Very likely
37. I (or somebody in my household) will build a rain garden on my property in the next two years if some of my friends and neighbors helped me.
 Very unlikely Very likely
38. I would help my neighbors build a rain garden in the next two years if they asked for my help as part of a larger community event.
 Very unlikely Very likely

SUMMARY OF MAJOR OBSTACLES...

39. The following are obstacles preventing me (or somebody in my household) from building a rain garden on my property:

- | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------|------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-----------|
| A) <u>Yard too small:</u> | Not at all | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Very much |
| B) <u>Yard too steep:</u> | Not at all | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Very much |
| C) <u>Cost/Expense:</u> | Not at all | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Very much |
| D) <u>Insufficient time:</u> | Not at all | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Very much |
| E) <u>Too much work:</u> | Not at all | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Very much |
| F) <u>Lack of knowledge:</u> | Not at all | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Very much |

40. Largest obstacle (please enter one letter from above): _____

If you wish to enter the drawing for the 100 square foot Agrecol sponsored rain garden, please fill out the information below.

- NAME:
 ADDRESS:
 PHONE NUMBER:
 E-MAIL (optional):

Please return your survey as soon as you are able, and once again thank you for your time and effort.