



NEWS

Chagrin River Watershed Partners, Inc. Willoughby, Ohio

For IMMEDIATE RELEASE (**February 11, 2019**)

CHAGRIN RIVER WATERSHED PARTNERS AND THE VILLAGE OF CHAGRIN FALLS TO HOST RAIN GARDEN WORKSHOP

In partnership with the Village of Chagrin Falls, Chagrin River Watershed Partners will host a community presentation for residents interested in learning more about how to design, install, and maintain a residential rain garden. The workshop will be held on Wednesday, February 20, 2019 at 7:00pm at Township Hall in Chagrin Falls, located at 83 N. Main St. Chagrin Falls, OH. The workshop will educate local residents on the benefits of rain gardens and provide tools and resources to build one in their own yard.

Rain gardens are shallow, landscaped depressions with native plants designed to temporarily hold and soak up stormwater flowing from hard surfaces like your roof, driveway, or patio. They work with nature to collect, filter, and infiltrate stormwater runoff. Stormwater runoff is any water from rain, melted snow, or outdoor home usage that is not absorbed into the ground. This water flows over hard, or impervious surfaces, such as paved streets, driveways, parking lots, or rooftops, and drains through gutters and storm sewers. This untreated runoff is then directly discharged into nearby water bodies. The stormwater in Chagrin Falls drains to streams that flow into the Chagrin River, then eventually to Lake Erie. Stormwater collects sediment, debris, chemicals, and other pollutants as it travels over these impervious surfaces, which adversely affects the quality of our water. The increased volume of stormwater runoff from developed areas and the increased speed can also mean large quantities of water reach surface waters quickly, which can lead to flooding and streambank erosion. The Environmental Protection Agency has ranked unmanaged stormwater runoff as the leading threat to water quality of our surface waters in the United States.

“Building a rain garden in your own yard is a relatively easy way to manage stormwater and do your part to help keep our local streams clean,” said Laura Bonnell, Project Manager at CRWP. “These low-cost gardens naturally filter and soak up stormwater through deep-rooted native plants and the underlying soil media, while also creating much-needed habitat for pollinators and birds and enhancing the beauty of your yard.”

Be part of the solution! Join us on **Wednesday, February 20 at 7:00 pm** for a community presentation to learn more about how to design and install a rain garden on your property. The workshop will introduce participants to proper site selection, sizing, digging, planting, and maintenance of rain gardens. **For more information or to register for this workshop, contact Laura Bonnell at 440-975-3870 #1002 or lbonnell@crwp.org.**

With partners in Lake County, including Lake County Soil & Water Conservation District, Lake County Stormwater Management Department, Holden Arboretum, and Lake Metroparks, CRWP will also be launching an in depth, 5-week course this summer for Lake County residents or contractors looking to become certified Master RAIN Gardeners. Development of this Master RAIN Gardener program is funded by the Cleveland Foundation's Lake-Geauga Fund. There will also be a parallel program this summer for Cuyahoga County residents: <https://www.clevelandmetroparks.com/parks/programs-events/2019/wsc/wsc-6-7-june-july-2019/master-rain-gardener-5-week-course>.

Chagrin River Watershed Partners is a nonprofit organization that uses a regional watershed approach to enhance quality of life by preserving rivers, planning for better development and solving natural resource management problems. Sixteen communities, counties and park districts formed the Watershed Partners in 1996 to address rising infrastructure costs because of flooding, erosion and water pollution. Today, the Partners' 34 members, including the Village of Chagrin Falls, represent 91% of the land area in the watershed. For more information about Chagrin River Watershed Partners, visit www.crowp.org.

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For more information, contact:

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RAIN GARDEN WORKSHOP

Date Wednesday, February 20, 2019
Time 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm
Location Township Hall, 83 N. Main St. Chagrin Falls, OH 44022
Speaker Laura Bonnell, Chagrin River Watershed Partners



A community presentation for residents interested in learning more about how to design, install, and maintain a residential rain garden on your property.

Register by contacting Laura Bonnell at 440-975-3870 #1002 or emailing lbonnell@crwp.org



Learn about:

- Site selection
- Sizing
- Digging
- Planting
- Maintenance

Rain gardens temporarily hold and soak up rain water flowing from your roof, driveway, or patio. They help create habitat, prevent local flooding and pollution, and enhance sidewalk appeal!

Figure 1: Rain Garden Workshop flyer



Figure 2: Example rain garden in public right of way (City of Mentor)



Figure 3: Native plants in rain gardens provide habitat for monarch butterflies and other pollinators