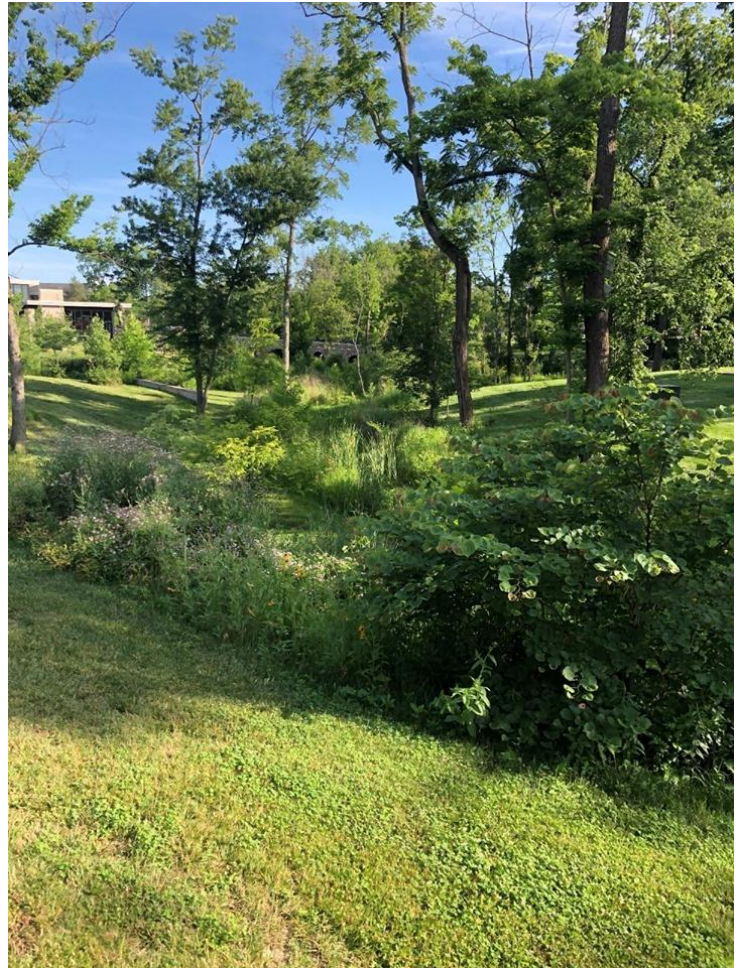


Consider Pretty Ditches to Handle Excess Rainfall

Rain Gardens and **Bioswales** are usually designed to reduce the negative impacts of surface water impacts during rain events. With gently sloping sides, the native **vegetation acts as a filter** to help reduce flooding, pollutants, silt (erosion) and debris and are especially effective and helping to cleanse the “first flush” or the runoff appearing soon after it starts raining. When time and money permit, a meandering **Rain Garden** can also help groundwater to recharge. There is some confusion on the difference between the two terms.

Bioswales typically use soil and rock to filter the water and slope to a destination while **rain gardens** are heavily vegetated and do not slope to a destination. In short, **Bioswales may end with a Rain Garden.**

The Bioswale and Rain Garden pictured to the right is located on Miami University’s Western Campus and looks incredible. The deep root systems of the **native plants** make them drought tolerant and aid with water infiltration. Because it is filled with native plants, the habitat values are large while maintenance is surprisingly low. The picture below is an area that desperately needs a Bioswale.



Bioswale and Rain Garden at Miami University

Andy’s Back Yard



Please make your yard water friendly!

There are many resources available for the interested home or business owner to **build a rain garden**. A good one comes from Ohio Prairie Nursery. You can get to it at this web address: <https://www.opnseed.com/resources/rain-garden-manual>.

If you decide to design a bioswale or rain garden, yourself, some key points to consider are:

- Placement
- Size
- Depth/Slope
- Water Source
- Native Plants
- Maintenance
-

For Bioswales, Clemson has a pretty good fact sheet - <https://hgic.clemson.edu/factsheet/an-introduction-to-bioswales/>. If your property is right for a Bioswale, you'll want to check out this factsheet in order to help make sure that you have the right soils, slope, water infiltration rates and vegetation.

In our changing climate, water can be an asset and a liability. I prefer the former and by utilizing Rain Gardens and Bioswales, we can all look forward to the next heavy rain.



Project Groundwork Cincinnati

