

# RAIN GARDEN at First Baptist Greenville

## What is a rain garden?

Rain gardens, or bioretention areas, are shallow landscaped depressions designed to collect, temporarily store, filter, and infiltrate stormwater runoff from developed sites. They help protect streams and rivers by improving stormwater quality and by mimicking natural hydrology to help reduce runoff, channel erosion and flooding.

Rain gardens are versatile and effective green infrastructure (GI) tools employed in low impact development (LID) designs. They can be used in a variety of settings and in conjunction with traditional stormwater management systems to reduce runoff rates, volumes, and pollutants, and can enhance landscape aesthetics. Policies are needed to incentivize use of these GI tools and other LID practices.

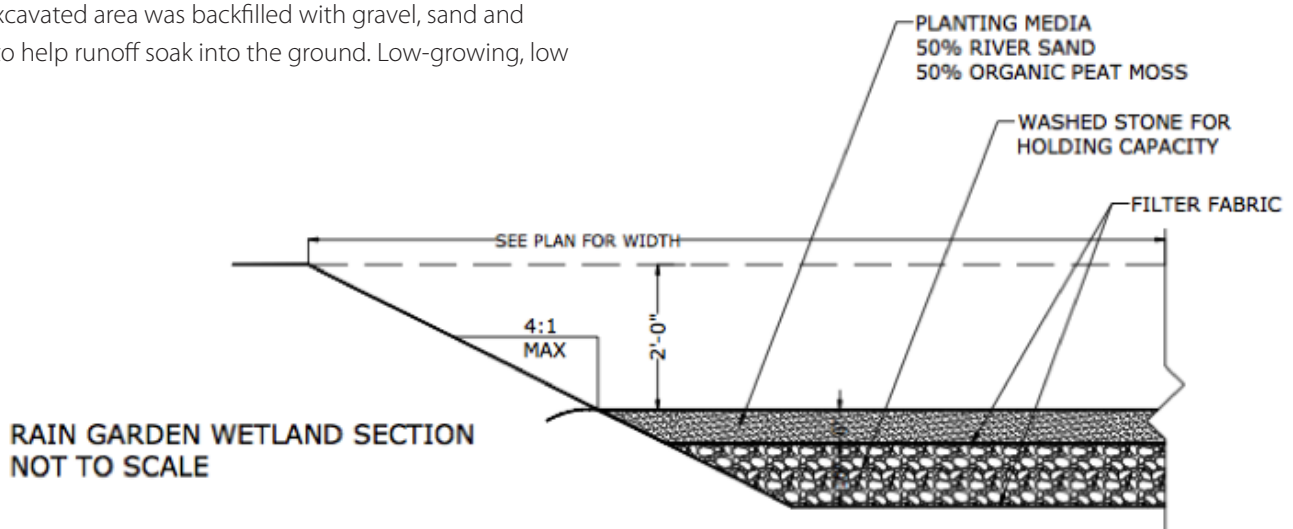
## Project Description

A rain garden was installed in Spring 2015 along the Reedy River near downtown Greenville by the Friends of the Reedy River (FoRR) in collaboration with a number of partners and supporters to demonstrate its use as a stormwater retrofit for an existing development site.

The project site is situated between two ballfields adjacent to the Greenville Health System Swamp Rabbit Trail. A depressional area subject to frequent flooding was excavated, nonfunctioning drain pipes were removed, and the excavated area was backfilled with gravel, sand and peat to help runoff soak into the ground. Low-growing, low

maintenance native plants tolerant of fluctuating water levels were planted in the prepared site.

Soil, plant, and microfaunal systems in the rain garden function collectively to capture, detain, infiltrate, and evapotranspire stormwater runoff, and to remove, recycle, and biodegrade stormwater pollutants.



## Benefits of Rain Gardens

- Conserve water
- Enhance aesthetics
- Filter/recycle/degrade pollutants
- Improve water quality
- Increase beneficial insects
- Mimic natural drainage
- Protect streams and rivers
- Provide wildlife habitat
- Recharge local groundwater
- Reduce flooding
- Reduce mosquito breeding
- Reduce stormwater runoff
- Remove standing water

## Project Partners/Supporters

City of Greenville  
First Baptist Greenville  
Friends of the Reedy River  
Greenfields Consortium/Earth Design/Darrohn Engineering  
Greenville County Soil and Water Conservation District  
Keep Greenville County Beautiful  
Lake Conestee Nature Park/Conestee Foundation  
Michelin  
Naturaland Trust  
Nicholtown Neighborhood Association  
Orvis  
South Carolina Native Plant Society  
Sustaining Way  
Upstate Forever



For information on how to create your own rain garden, please visit [Clemson.edu](http://Clemson.edu) and search, "Rain Gardens"

[www.FriendsOfTheReedyRiver.org](http://www.FriendsOfTheReedyRiver.org)