



2018-2019 Richland County Rain Garden Grant

Faculty and staff members involved in the South Carolina Green Steps Schools Program are eligible to apply for a grant up to \$500 to support the installation of a rain garden on school property during the 2018-2019 school year.

Schools located within Richland County (including the City of Columbia) are able to compete for this grant. Applications must be received by **Friday, September 28, 2018** and projects must be completed by **November 16th, 2018**.

The award will be given to applicants demonstrating the feasibility of the project, proper site selection, long term administration support, and the knowledge gained by students. Awardees will then work with Clemson Extension and the Nature Conservancy to select appropriate materials, supplies, and an installation date. Volunteers will be on hand to help with the installation.

Clemson University offers its programs to people of all ages, regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, gender, gender identity, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital or family status and is an equal opportunity employer.

Contact

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Rain Gardens

What is a rain garden? A rain garden is a landscaped depression that intercepts stormwater and runoff from impervious surfaces, allowing it to soak into the ground and recharge groundwater supplies. These best management practices can also filter out pollutants such as bacteria, nutrients, and sediment, ultimately preventing them from reaching our waterways.

Who benefits from rain gardens? We do! Rain gardens can be a tool for homeowners, businesses, and schools to ensure clean streams, rivers, and lakes. They can also prevent erosion by slowing down water and allowing it to infiltrate into the soil. Pollinating insects such as birds, bees, and butterflies also use this green space as much needed habitat.

What makes a good rain garden site? A rain garden should be situated between a rainwater source (e.g., roof or driveway) and its final destination. It should also be installed more than 10 feet from a building's foundation. Ideally the site will drain water within 24 hours or less. You can determine this through a perc test. Simply fill a 6 x 6-inch hole with water and observe how long the water takes to drain. Sandy soils will drain quickly, while clayey soils will take longer for water to pass through. Soils should consist of sand (50-60%), soil (20-30%), and compost (20-30%). Native soils may need to be amended to reach the correct proportion of sand, soil, and compost.

How do I maintain a rain garden? Rain gardens are meant to be low maintenance once established, not maintenance free. Establishment will take at least two weeks. Plants should also be watered and monitored during times of drought. It's essential that the mulch layer be maintained at a depth of 2-3 inches. This may require adding mulch to your rain garden 1-2 times a year.

More information can be found using the following resources:

[Clemson Extension's Factsheet on Rain Gardens](#)

[A Guide to Rain Gardens in South Carolina](#)

[Carolina Rain Garden Initiative](#)



2018-2019 Rain Garden Application

Please respond to the following questions. Expand response areas and attach additional pages as necessary.

1. Applicant's Name:
2. Applicant's Title/Position:
3. Applicant's E-mail:
4. Applicant's Phone:
5. School:
6. School Address:
7. Principal's Name:
8. Principal's E-mail:
9. Is the site located at least 10 feet from a building foundation? Yes No
10. How many students will be involved in this project and how will it contribute to their learning?
11. Describe your long-term maintenance plan.
12. Please submit three photos:
 - The source of rainwater/runoff (roof, driveway, etc.)
 - Location of where the rain garden will be installed
 - Final destination of the rainwater/runoff (sidewalk, street, storm drain, etc.)

13. Administrator certification: A school administrator (principal or headmaster) must certify that they **agree to allow the proposed project to be installed on school property**. Please have your school administrator either sign on the line below.

Principal's Signature

Date

Please submit this application by mail, in person, or email no later than **Friday, September 28, 2018** to:

Mail: Karen Jackson
PO Box 23205
Columbia, SC 29224

In person: 900 Clemson Road
Columbia, SC 29229
M-F, 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

Email: karen7@clemson.edu