



**Slow  
The Flow**

Columbia Association's  
**Rain Garden**  
Cost Share Program



# Rain Garden Cost Share

A rain garden is a shallow, excavated depression or saucer-shaped garden designed to collect water from roofs, pavement, sidewalks and other impervious surfaces after a storm event. Stormwater runoff can contain many pollutants that threaten the health of our lakes, streams and rivers. Rain gardens allow the water to enter the ground, which naturally filters the contaminants in the water as it travels to the groundwater table, as opposed to through the sewer system. Rain gardens are planted with native plants, trees, shrubs, grasses and flowers.

Columbia Association, through a grant from Maryland Department of Natural Resources will pay 75 percent of the installation cost and has a landscape firm on contract for installation. The following designs are only available to residents. Please email [OpenSpace.ResourceRequests@ColumbiaAssociation.org](mailto:OpenSpace.ResourceRequests@ColumbiaAssociation.org) for more information.





*Carex stricta*



*Juncus effuses*



*Schizachyrium scoparium*



*Osmunda cinnamomea*



*Rudbeckia fulgida*



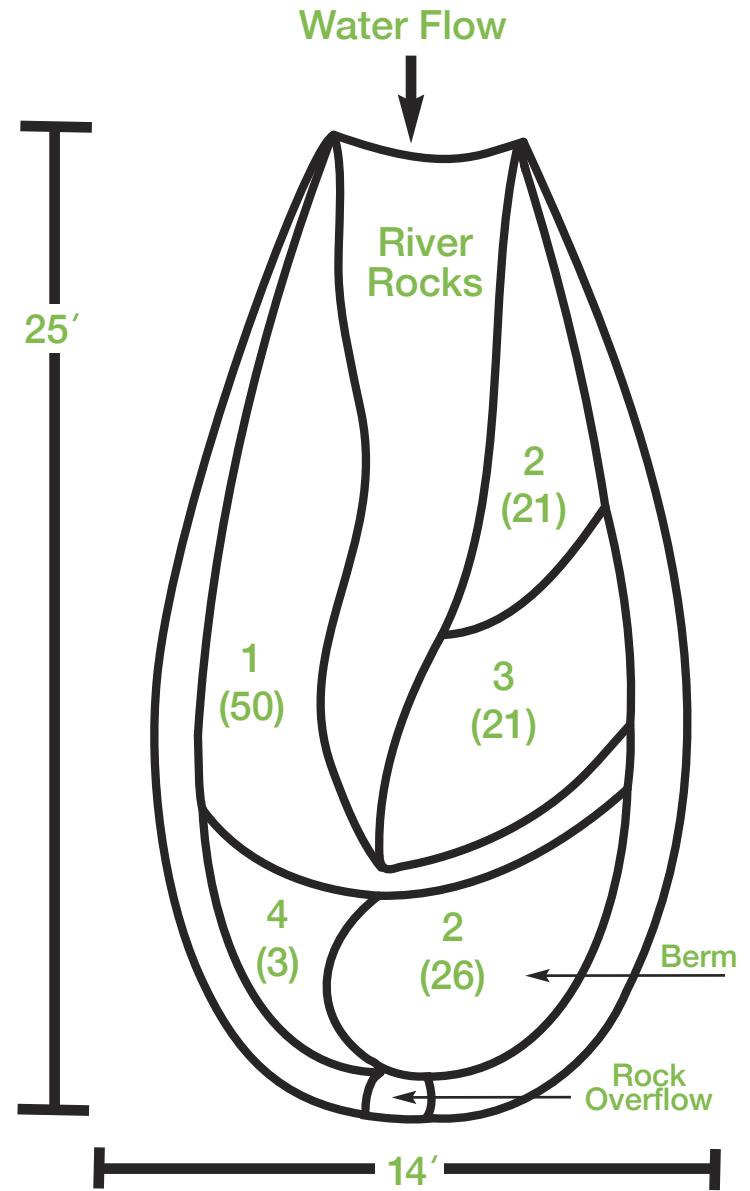
*Onoclea sensibilis*



*Liatris spicata*



*Cornus ammomum*



# RAIN GARDEN #1 350 SQ FT

Rain Garden Template for Columbia Association  
by Howard County Master Gardeners July 2011

SUN

|     | COMMON NAME           | LATIN NAME                          | COMMENTS  |
|-----|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| 1 [ | *Tussock Sedge        | <i>Carex stricta</i>                | 1-3.5' clumping grass   |
|     | Little Bluestem       | <i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>      | 1-5.4' clumping grass   |
| 2 [ | *Orange Coneflower    | <i>Rudbecki fulgida "Goldstrum"</i> | 1.5-3.5' with yellow flowers Jul-Oct                          |
|     | Coreopsis             | <i>Coreopsis verticillata</i>       | 0.5-3.5' with yellow flowers Jul-Sep                          |
| 3 [ | *Beebalm              | <i>Mondarda didyma</i>              | 2-5' with red flowers Jul-Sep                                 |
|     | Gayfeather            | <i>Liatris spicata</i>              | 1-6' with rose-purple flowers Jul-Aug                         |
| 4 [ | *American Beautyberry | <i>Callicarpa americana</i>         | 6' with lavender flowers Jun-Aug, lavender berries in Sep-Mar |
|     | Black Chokeberry      | <i>Photinia melanocarpa</i>         | 6' with white flowers Apr-May, blackberries Sep-Nov           |
| 1 [ | *Soft Rush            | <i>Juncus effuses</i>               | 3' grass  |
|     | Tufted Hairgrass      | <i>Deschampsia cespitosa</i>        | 18" with purple-tinged panicles Jun-Aug                       |
| 2 [ | *Coral Bells          | <i>Huechera americana</i>           | 1-2' nice foliage, tiny flowers on spikes Apr-Jun             |
|     | False Apirea          | <i>Astilbe</i>                      | 1-3' with plume-like flowers Jun-Jul                          |
| 3 [ | *Cinnamon Fern        | <i>Osmunda cinnamomea</i>           | 2-5' fronds, brown spike seed heads in fall                   |
|     | Sensitive Fern        | <i>Onoclea sensibilis</i>           | 1-3.5' fronds   |
| 4 [ | *Silky Dogwood        | <i>Cornus amomum</i>                | 6-12' with white flowers spring                               |
|     | Black Chokecherry     | <i>Photinia melanocarpa</i>         | 3-6' with white flowers Apr-May, black berries Sep-Nov        |

SEMI-SHADE

Total cost \$6,650, cost to resident \$1,663 Shape subject to site specific modifications

\*first choice



*Carex stricta*



*Juncus effuses*



*Panicum virgatum*



*Osmunda regalis*



*Chelone glabraea*



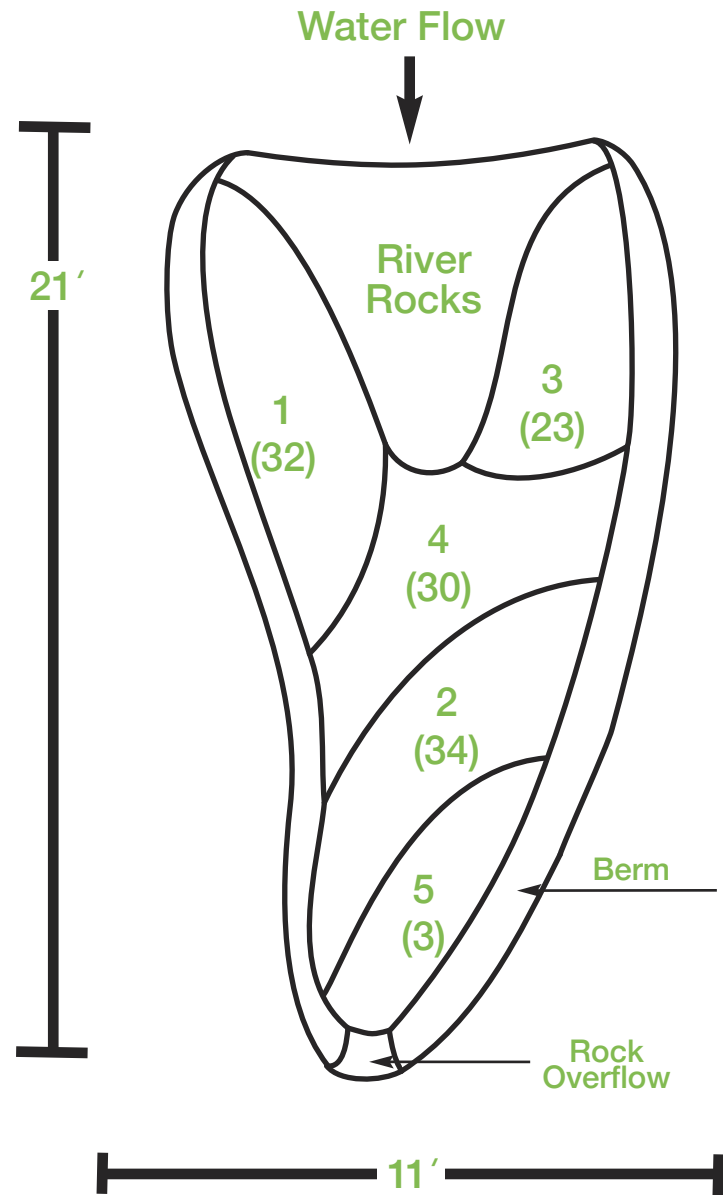
*Osmunda cinnamomea*



*Liatris spicata*



*Rhododendron periclymenoides*



# RAIN GARDEN #2 225 SQ FT

Rain Garden Template for Columbia Association  
by Howard County Master Gardeners July 2011

SUN

|     | COMMON NAME           | LATIN NAME                           | COMMENTS  |
|-----|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| 1 [ | *Tussock Sedge        | <i>Carex stricta</i>                 | 1-3.5' clumping grass   |
|     | Switch Grass          | <i>Panicum virgatum</i>              | 3-6' clumping grass   |
| 2 [ | *Gayfeather           | <i>Liatris spicata</i>               | 1-6' with lavender spikes Jul-Aug                                 |
|     | Purple Coneflower     | <i>Echinacea purpurea</i>            | 2-3' with lavender flowers Jul-Sep                                |
| 3 [ | *White Turtlehead     | <i>Chelone glabra</i>                | 1.5-6' with white blooms Jul-Oct                                  |
|     | Common Boneset        | <i>Eupatorium perfoliatum</i>        | 1-5' with white blooms Jul-Sep                                    |
| 4 [ | *Coreopsis            | <i>Coreopsis verticillata</i>        | 0.5-3.5' with yellow blooms Jun-Oct                               |
|     | Orange Coneflower     | <i>Rudbeckia fulgida 'Goldstrum'</i> | 1.5-3.5' with yellow blooms Jun-Oct                               |
| 5 [ | *American Beautyberry | <i>Callicarpa americana</i>          | 6' with lavender flowers Jun-Aug, lavender berries Sep-Mar        |
|     | Sweet Pepper Bush     | <i>Clethra alnifolia</i>             | 6-12' white/pine flowers Jul-Aug                                  |
| 1 [ | * Soft Rush           | <i>Juncus effuses</i>                | 3' grass  |
|     | Switch Grass          | <i>Panicum virgatum</i>              | 3-6' clumping grass   |
| 2 [ | * Cinnamon Fern       | <i>Osmunda cinnamomea</i>            | 2-5' fronds brown spike seed heads in fall                        |
|     | Royal Fern            | <i>Osmunda regalis</i>               | 1.5-6' fronds   |
| 3 [ | * Coral Bells         | <i>Heuchera americana</i>            | 1-2.5' nice foliage, tiny flowers Apr-Jun                         |
|     | False Spirea          | <i>Astilbe</i>                       | 1-2.5' with plume-like flowers Jun-Jul                            |
| 4 [ | *Lyre-leaf Sage       | <i>Salvia lyrata</i>                 | 1-2' with violet flowers Apr-Jun                                  |
|     | Mist Flower           | <i>Eupatorium coelestinum</i>        | 1-3.5' with purple flowers Jul-Aug                                |
| 5 [ | *Oak-Leaf Hydrangea   | <i>Hydrangea quercifolia</i>         | 6-8' with white cone-shaped flower clusters in spring             |
|     | Pink Azalea           | <i>Rhododendron periclymenoides</i>  | 3-10' with white/pink blooms Apr-May, orange/scarlet fall foliage |

SEMI-SHADE

Total cost \$4,275 cost to resident \$1,069 Shape subject to site specific modifications

\*first choice



*Panicum virgatum*



*Carex stricta*



*Andropogon virginicus*



*Kalmia angustifolia*



*Monard didyma*



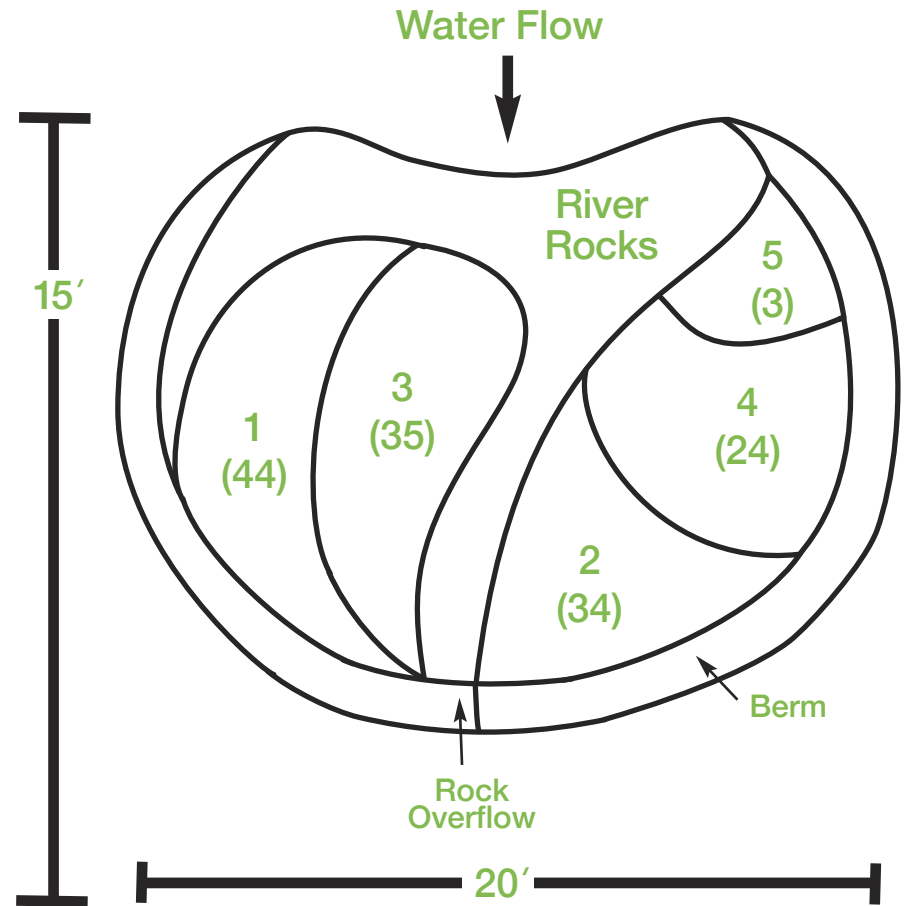
*Eupatorium coelestinum*



*Rudbeckia hirta*



*Heuchera americana*





# RAIN GARDEN #3 300 SQ FT

Rain Garden Template for Columbia Association  
by Howard County Master Gardeners July 2011

SUN

|           | COMMON NAME          | LATIN NAME                         | COMMENTS  |                                      |
|-----------|----------------------|------------------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|
| 1 [       | *Switch Grass        | <i>Panicum virgatum</i>            | 3-6' clumping grass   |                                      |
|           | Broom Sedge          | <i>Andropogon virginicus</i>       | 1-3' with red brown plumes Jul-Aug                                |                                      |
|           | 2 [                  | *Purple Coneflower                 | <i>Echinacea purpurea</i>   | 2-3' with lavender flowers Jul-Sep   |
|           |                      | Beebalm                            | <i>Monard didyma</i>  | 2-5' with red flowers Jul-Sep        |
|           | 3 [                  | *Black Eyed Susan                  | <i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>  | 1.5-3.5' with yellow flowers Jul-Oct |
| Coreopsis |                      | <i>Coreopsis verticillata</i>      | 0.5-3.5' with yellow flowers Jun-Oct                              |                                      |
| 4 [       | *Lyre-Leaf Sage      | <i>Salvia lyrata</i>               | 1-2' with violet flowers Apr-Jun                                  |                                      |
|           | Blue Flag            | <i>Iris vericolor</i>              | 3' with blue flowers May-Jun                                      |                                      |
| 5 [       | * Red Osier Dogwood  | <i>Cornus sericea</i>              | 6-8' with white flowers in spring, small red twigs                |                                      |
|           | American Beautyberry | <i>Callicarpa americana</i>        | 6' with lavender flowers Jun-Aug, lavender berries Sep-Mar        |                                      |
| 1 [       | * Tussock Sedge      | <i>Carex stricta</i>               | 1-3.5' clumping grass   |                                      |
|           | Switch Grass         | <i>Panicum virgatum</i>            | 3-6' clumping grass   |                                      |
| 2 [       | * Sheep Laurel       | <i>Kalmia angustifolia</i>         | 2-3' with white/pink blooms May-Jun, evergreen                    |                                      |
|           | Mist Flower          | <i>Eupatorium coelestinum</i>      | 2-3' with blue to violet flowers late summer                      |                                      |
| 3 [       | *Cinnamon Fern       | <i>Osmunda cinnamomea</i>          | 2-5' fronds, brown spike seedheads in fall                        |                                      |
|           | Royal Fern           | <i>Osmunda regalis</i>             | 1.5-6' fronds   |                                      |
| 4 [       | * False Spirea       | <i>Astilbe</i>                     | 1-2.5' with plume-like flowers Jun-Jul                            |                                      |
|           | Coral Bells          | <i>Heuchera americana</i>          | 1.2-5' good foliage, tiny flowers on spikes Apr-Jun               |                                      |
| 5 [       | Oak-Leaf Hydrangea   | <i>Hydrangea quercifolia</i>       | 6-8' with white cone-shaped flower clusters in spring             |                                      |
|           | Pink Azalea          | <i>Rhododendro periclymenoides</i> | 3-10' with white/pink blooms Apr-May, orange-scarlet fall foliage |                                      |

SEMI-SHADE

Total cost \$5,700, cost to resident \$1,425 Shape subject to site specific modifications

\*first choice



*Carex stricta*



*Juncus effuses*



*Schizachyrium scoparium*



*Panicum virgatum*



*Ilex verticilla*



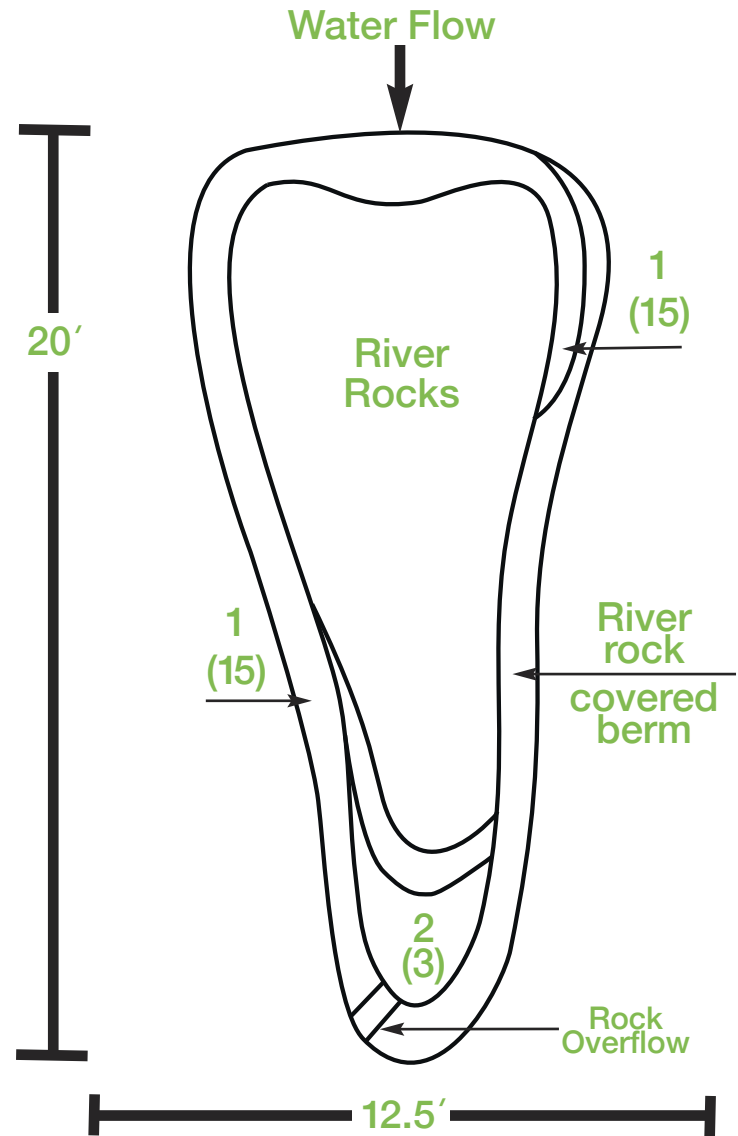
*Hydrangea quercifolia*



*Cornus stolonifera*



*Cornus amomum*



# RAIN GARDEN #4 **ROCK GARDEN** 250 SQ FT

Rain Garden Template for Columbia Association  
by Howard County Master Gardeners July 2011

**SUN**

|     | COMMON NAME        | LATIN NAME                     | COMMENTS   |
|-----|--------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| 1 [ | *Tussock Sedge     | <i>Carex stricta</i>           | 1-3.5' clumping grass  |
|     | Little Bluestem    | <i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i> | 1.5-4' grass   |
| 2 [ | *Winterberry       | <i>Ilex verticilla</i>         | 6-12' with white blooms May-Jul, red berries Sep-Mar, must plant one male to fertilize female plants |
|     | Red Osier Dogwood  | <i>Cornus stolonifera</i>      | 7-9' white blooms in spring; red twigs in fall   |
| 1 [ | *Soft Rush         | <i>Juncus effuses</i>          | 3' grass   |
|     | Switch Grass       | <i>Panicum virgatum</i>        | 3-6' clumping grass  |
| 2 [ | Oak Leaf Hydrangea | <i>Hydrangea quercifolia</i>   | 6-9' with white cone-shaped flowers in spring  |
|     | Silky Dogwood      | <i>Cornus amomum</i>           | 6-12' with white flowers in spring; orange/scarlet fall foliage                                      |

**SEMI-SHADE**

**Total cost \$4,750, cost to resident \$1,188** Shape subject to site specific modifications

\*first choice



*Carex stricta*



*Juncus effuses*



*Panicum virgatum*



*Osmunda regalis*



*Chelone glabraea*



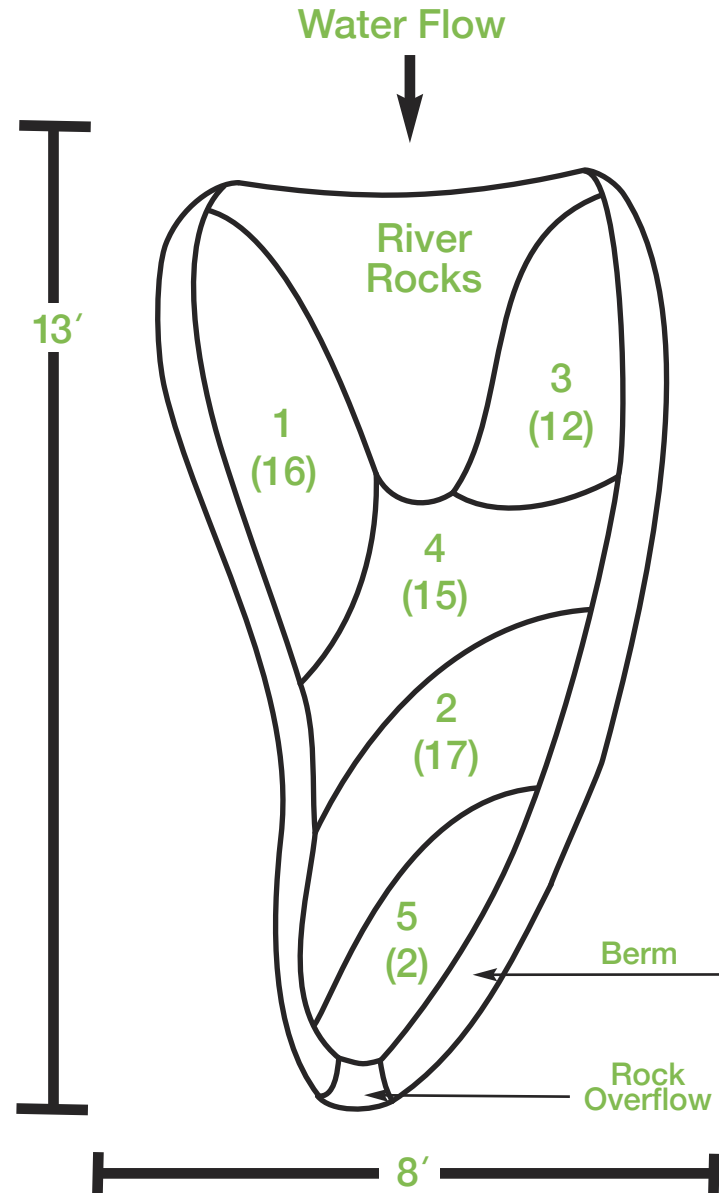
*Osmunda cinnamomea*



*Liatris spicata*



*Rhododendron periclymenoides*



# RAIN GARDEN #5 104 SQ FT

Rain Garden Template for Columbia Association  
by Howard County Master Gardeners July 2011

SUN

|     | COMMON NAME           | LATIN NAME                           | COMMENTS  |
|-----|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| 1 [ | *Tussock Sedge        | <i>Carex stricta</i>                 | 1-3.5' clumping grass   |
|     | Switch Grass          | <i>Panicum virgatum</i>              | 3-6' clumping grass   |
| 2 [ | *Gayfeather           | <i>Liatris spicata</i>               | 1-6' with lavender spikes Jul-Aug                                 |
|     | Purple Coneflower     | <i>Echinacea purpurea</i>            | 2-3' with lavender flowers Jul-Sep                                |
| 3 [ | *White Turtlehead     | <i>Chelone glabra</i>                | 1.5-6' with white blooms Jul-Oct                                  |
|     | Common Boneset        | <i>Eupatorium perfoliatum</i>        | 1-5' with white blooms Jul-Sep                                    |
| 4 [ | *Coreopsis            | <i>Coreopsis verticillata</i>        | 0.5-3.5' with yellow blooms Jun-Oct                               |
|     | Orange Coneflower     | <i>Rudbeckia fulgida 'Goldstrum'</i> | 1.5-3.5' with yellow blooms Jun-Oct                               |
| 5 [ | *American Beautyberry | <i>Callicarpa americana</i>          | 6' with lavender flowers Jun-Aug, lavender berries Sep-Mar        |
|     | Sweet Pepper Bush     | <i>Clethra alnifolia</i>             | 6-12' with white/pine flowers Jul-Aug                             |
| 1 [ | * Soft Rush           | <i>Juncus effuses</i>                | 3' grass  |
|     | Switch Grass          | <i>Panicum virgatum</i>              | 3-6' clumping grass   |
| 2 [ | * Cinnamon Fern       | <i>Osmunda cinnamomea</i>            | 2-5' fronds, brown spike seed heads in fall                       |
|     | Royal Fern            | <i>Osmunda regalis</i>               | 1.5-6' fronds   |
| 3 [ | * Coral Bells         | <i>Heuchera cmericana</i>            | 1-2.5' nice foliage, with tiny flowers Apr-Jun                    |
|     | False Spirea          | <i>Astilbe</i>                       | 1-2.5' with plume-like flowers Jun-Jul                            |
| 4 [ | *Lyre-Leaf Sage       | <i>Salvia lyrata</i>                 | 1-2' with violet flowers Apr-Jun                                  |
|     | Mist Flower           | <i>Eupatorium coelestinum</i>        | 1-3.5' with purple flowers Jul-Aug                                |
| 5 [ | *Oak-Leaf Hydrangea   | <i>Hydrangea quercifolia</i>         | 6-8' with white cone-shaped flower clusters in spring             |
|     | Pink Azalea           | <i>Rhododendron periclymenoides</i>  | 3-10' with white/pink blooms Apr-May, orange/scarlet fall foliage |

SEMI-SHADE

Total cost \$1,976, cost to resident \$494 Shape subject to site specific modifications

\*first choice



Residents will need to apply to their village's resident architectural committee. Once the application is approved, the 25 percent resident share paid to CA, and a maintenance agreement signed, the installation will be scheduled.

Please email [OpenSpace.ResourceRequests@ColumbiaAssociation.org](mailto:OpenSpace.ResourceRequests@ColumbiaAssociation.org) for more information.



Compost bins



A rain garden with no berm



Demonstration rain garden at Alpha Ridge landfill

## MAINTAINING YOUR RAIN GARDEN

Your rain garden will need a little maintenance for it to be beautiful and successful. If you are not familiar with your plants, take a photograph of the leaves. You can then differentiate your plants from weeds.

### SPRING

Weed your garden regularly to prevent extensive weeding work in the future.

Be alert and pull out tree saplings before they take root.

Cut perennials and grasses to the ground or a basal rosette (see below).

Replace mulch when bare spots start to appear or when the mulch becomes caked and will not allow water to filter through. Do not allow mulch to touch the base of a plant. Never mulch cardinal flower.

Place weeds that have not formed seed and plant material that is not diseased into compost bins.

Prune blooming shrubs after the blooms fade.

No fertilizer or pest control should be needed.

Once established, adding drip hoses defeats the principle of a rain garden.

### SUMMER

Continue to weed as needed.

Water your whole garden only when you have not received 1 inch of rain that week. Water from a rain barrel or garden hose until you reach 1 inch.

Some perennials may need trimming to keep them tidy later in the summer.







A weeded rain garden



A rain garden with a path



Grasses can be left untrimmed until spring

## FALL

Water all shrubs and trees well if we have a dry season.

Continue to weed as needed.

Use shredded leaves as mulch (up to 2 inches).

Leave interesting perennials to enjoy through the winter. Trim any messy looking plants.

## WINTER

Trim any plants damaged by snow/ice after the snow subsides.

Rain gardens with rock can be sprayed with glyphosate (i.e. Roundup®) to kill weeds at any time of the year.

