



Kane County
Government Center

Rain garden

Why did we Plant a Rain Garden?

- ◆ To support goals from the *Kane County 2040 Green Infrastructure Plan* that was adopted in 2013.
- ◆ To accomplish native landscaping tasks from the *Kane County Operational Sustainability Plan*.
- ◆ To educate County staff, visitors, and the community about stormwater Best Management Practices—part of the *Clean Water for Kane* educational efforts.



- ◆ To improve drainage around the building.
- ◆ To promote employee wellness by offering a chance for staff to get outdoors and volunteer in the garden.
- ◆ To enhance the aesthetics of the Government Center campus.

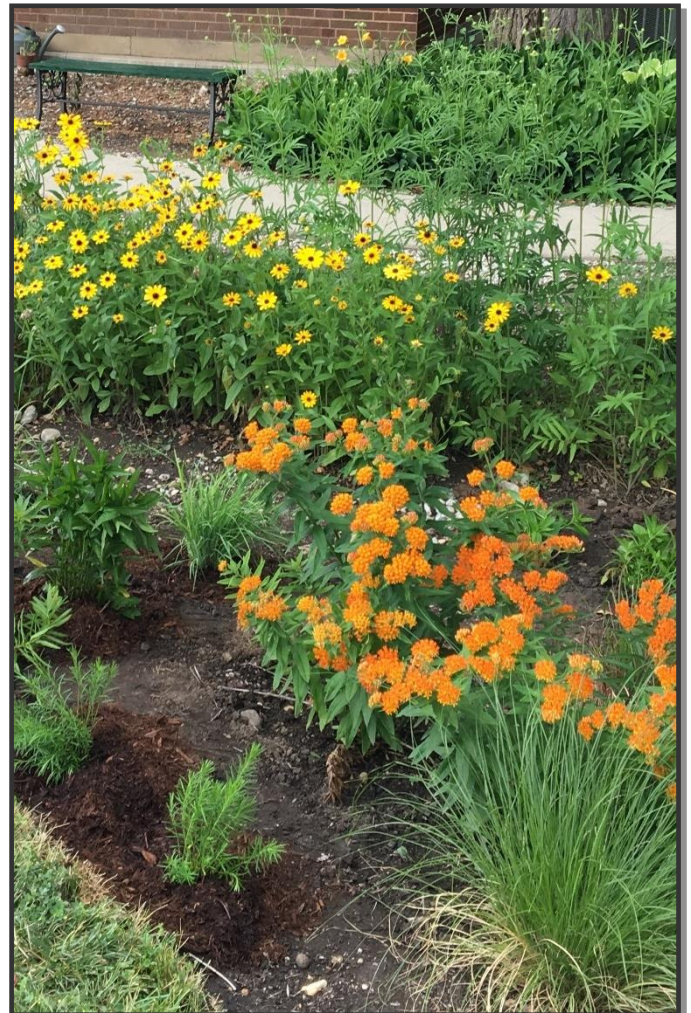


Wild Petunia

BEFORE



AFTER





About the Rain Garden

In the spring of 2015, a 465-square foot rain garden was planted behind the Kane County Government Center's Building A. The garden was installed to address drainage issues around the building, while also supporting sustainability and educational goals for the County.

19 total native plant species make up our rain garden.

Plant Name	Plant Characteristics
Black-Eyed Susan (<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>)	Blooms golden yellow from July to September, a well-known prairie plant.
Butterfly Weed (<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>)	In bloom all summer, and great for both insects and wildlife.
Cardinal Flower (<i>Lobelia Cardinalis</i>)	Blooms a vibrant red from July to September, attracting hummingbirds.
Fox Sedge (<i>Carex vulpinoidea</i>)	Blooms mid-summer (June and July), great for both insects and wildlife.
Little Bluestem (<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>)	Blooms throughout the fall, attracting butterflies and wildlife.
New England Aster (<i>Aster novae-angliae</i>)	Blooms a soft purple bundle of flowers in early fall, attracts butterflies.
New Jersey Tea (<i>Ceanothus americanus</i>)	Blooms mid-summer (June and July), can reach up to 6 feet.
Ohio Spiderwort (<i>Tradescantia ohioensis</i>)	Blooms blue from June to October, attracts insects and animals alike.
Prairie Blazing Star (<i>Liatris pycnostachya</i>)	Blooms a beautiful purple mid- to late-summer and can grow to 6 feet.
Prairie Dropseed (<i>Sporobolus heterolepis</i>)	Blooms late summer and early fall, attracting many wildlife and insects.
Purple Coneflower (<i>Echinacea purpurea</i>)	Blooms bright pink from June to August, attracts bee pollinators and birds.
Rattlesnake Master (<i>Eryngium yuccifolium</i>)	Blooms white June to September, attracts local wildlife.
Sky-blue Aster (<i>Symphyotrichum oolentangiense</i>)	Blooms a daisy-like flower from late summer to early fall.
Whorled Milkweed (<i>Asclepias verticillata</i>)	Blooms late into September, white color, attracts butterflies.
Wild Bergamot (<i>Monarda fistula</i>)	Blooms mid-summer to early fall with a citrus-y fragrance.
Wild Columbine (<i>Aquilegia canadensis</i>)	Blooms red from April to June, attracts butterflies.
Wild Geranium (<i>Geranium maculatum</i>)	Blooms in spring and summer, attracts insects and animals with fragrance.
Wild Petunia (<i>Ruellia humilis</i>)	Blooms a brilliant purple from late spring to early fall.
Yellow Coneflower (<i>Ratibida pinnata</i>)	Blooms from July to September, attracting an array of wildlife and insects.

What is a Rain Garden?

A rain garden is a depressed landscaped area that captures and infiltrates rainwater that runs off of streets, roof tops, sidewalks, and turf lawns during a storm event.

Rainwater is routed into the rain garden to be slowly filtered by the plants and soil instead of running off into a storm drain. It is planted with wild flowers and other native plants with deep, fibrous roots that help soak up the rain water.

