

## RAIN GARDEN RESTORATION PROJECT

The Native Species Rain Garden is located on the campus of West Shore Community College in Scottville, Michigan at the northeast corner of the Arts and Science Center parking lot. It was a collaborative project with West Shore Community College's Green Team and was created as a restoration project for AFFEW's Lincoln River Volunteer Monitoring Project.

Construction of the Rain Garden was made possible with grants from the Community Foundation of Mason County, Dow Chemical Company, and the Alliance for the Great Lakes Partner Network Fund with matching funds from AFFEW and West Shore Community College's Green Team.

The Rain Garden at West Shore Community College was created by community volunteers in the Fall of 2005 and is the first Native Species Rain Garden created in Mason County. Its purpose is to help reduce run-off and erosion that enters a tributary of the Lincoln River that runs through the college's campus. In addition to being used as a bioretention facility, the Rain Garden is being used as an educational tool for our community and the College to promote water quality stewardship and the benefits of using plants native to Michigan for landscaping.



## WHAT IS A RAIN GARDEN?

A Rain Garden is a landscaped area planted with native wildflowers and plants that soaks up rain water from parking lots, roofs, roadways, and lawns. The gardens fill with water slowing down rain water and allowing it to filter into the ground rather than quickly running into storm drains and waterways. Comparatively a rain garden allows 30% more water to soak into the ground than conventional lawns.

This means that rain gardens can reduce pollutants such as fertilizers and petroleum products from entering our waterways as well as reducing the chance of shoreline damage from erosion.

## WHY PLANT NATIVE?

The Rain Garden on the campus of West Shore Community College is planted with approximately 1,000 perennial native plants consisting of over 50 different species including species of special interest.

Species native to our region are specially adapted to local conditions and need no extra care once established. Their root systems grow deep - sometimes up to 10 feet. Comparatively, the roots of turf grass are 2-3 inches. This enables natives to create infiltration, withstand periods of drought and submersion in water. They also attract native wildlife. Acquire native plants through the Mason/Lake Conservation District's annual native plant sale.

## EVERYBODY'S DOING IT

Many people in the US including many communities in Michigan are using rain gardens to help run-off from roofs, driveways and lawns. Communities are using rain gardens at schools and municipal buildings and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality is working with Road Commissions to create rain gardens along roadways and bridge crossings to prevent pollution from roadways from entering our waterways. Visit Rain Gardens of West Michigan's website at [www.raingardens.org](http://www.raingardens.org) for rain garden locations outside of Mason County.



**Visit the Rain Garden on the campus of West Shore Community College!**

**It is there for you to enjoy and use!**

Consider creating a rain garden of your own. Rain gardens come in all shapes and sizes, are easy to make and maintain, and attract wildlife such as butterflies and birds. It is a simple way to protect the Great Lakes and our rivers, lakes and streams for future generations.

If you are interested in learning more about rain gardens please contact AFFEW. Our organization is available for consultation and presentations.

[www.affew.net](http://www.affew.net)  
[makeadifference@affew.net](mailto:makeadifference@affew.net)

AFFEW's mission is to provide visitors and residents with information regarding environmental issues having local importance by promoting public awareness, hosting balanced discussions, providing referral to other organizations, and sponsoring activities which promote a healthier ecosystem.

# AFFEW ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FORM

NEW MEMBER     RENEWAL

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*If the above is a summer only address, please check box and include your winter address also.*

**AFFEW is a non-profit 501c3 organization.**

## PLEASE CHECK MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY:

- Individual (\$10)
- Student/low income (\$5)
- Patron (\$50)
- Benefactor (\$100 or more)
- Corporate (\$25)

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to:    AFFEW  
              PO BOX 177  
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for the Environment of the World

A Few Friends for the Environment of the World, established in 1990, is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting appreciation for our environment. Among our many projects are educational forums, recycling, beach clean-ups and the Lincoln River Volunteer Monitoring Project.

## THE RAIN GARDEN PROJECT

Located at  
West Shore  
Community College

