



Department of Public Works
City Engineering Division

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January 10, 2011

To: Property owners adjacent to 2012 City street construction
From: Rob Phillips, P.E., City Engineer
Re: Eligibility for Terrace Rain Garden Cost Share Program – Ingersoll/Rutledge

Please accept this letter as an opportunity to participate in the City of Madison's Terrace Rain Garden Cost-Share Program. Each year, City Engineering compiles a list of streets to be reconstructed or resurfaced the following year. You are receiving this letter because your property falls within the limits of one of these projects and provides the opportunity to install terrace rain gardens. You should have already received information on the street reconstruction project.

What is a "terrace rain garden"?

Terrace rain gardens are small-scale stormwater management practices located between the street curb and sidewalk and are designed to take untreated street runoff, slow it down, and remove some of the pollutants before allowing it to soak into the ground. The gardens are constructed in conjunction with the street and utility work and are planted at the very end of construction or the following spring, depending on the time of year.

Terrace Rain Garden History

City Engineering has been installing rain gardens in terraces since 2005, when we installed 7 as part of a pilot project along Adams Street on the near west side. The interest in these gardens has increased each year, and we now have a total of 79 terrace rain gardens installed around the City.

Site Feasibility

There is a specific site criterion that needs to be met in order to be considered for the program. Terraces (the area between the curb and sidewalk) need to be at least 10 feet wide, trees cannot be too close, and the ground has to be fairly level. More details on our site criteria are included on the back of this letter.

Cost-Share Program

The City of Madison and the property owners share the cost of rain garden installation. The City is responsible for installation and planting of the rain gardens, and all maintenance is the responsibility of the homeowner. Homeowners are responsible for 25% of the total cost of installation of the garden, not to exceed \$400. Please remember, participation is 100% voluntary and property owners who chose to install these gardens help all of us keep our lakes clean.

To register your interest in participating or if you have questions please contact Genesis Steinhorst, of my staff, at 608-266-4059 or gsteinhorst@cityofmadison.com no later than February 10th. More information about rain gardens and the program can be found online: www.cityofmadison.com/engineering/stormwater/raingardens.

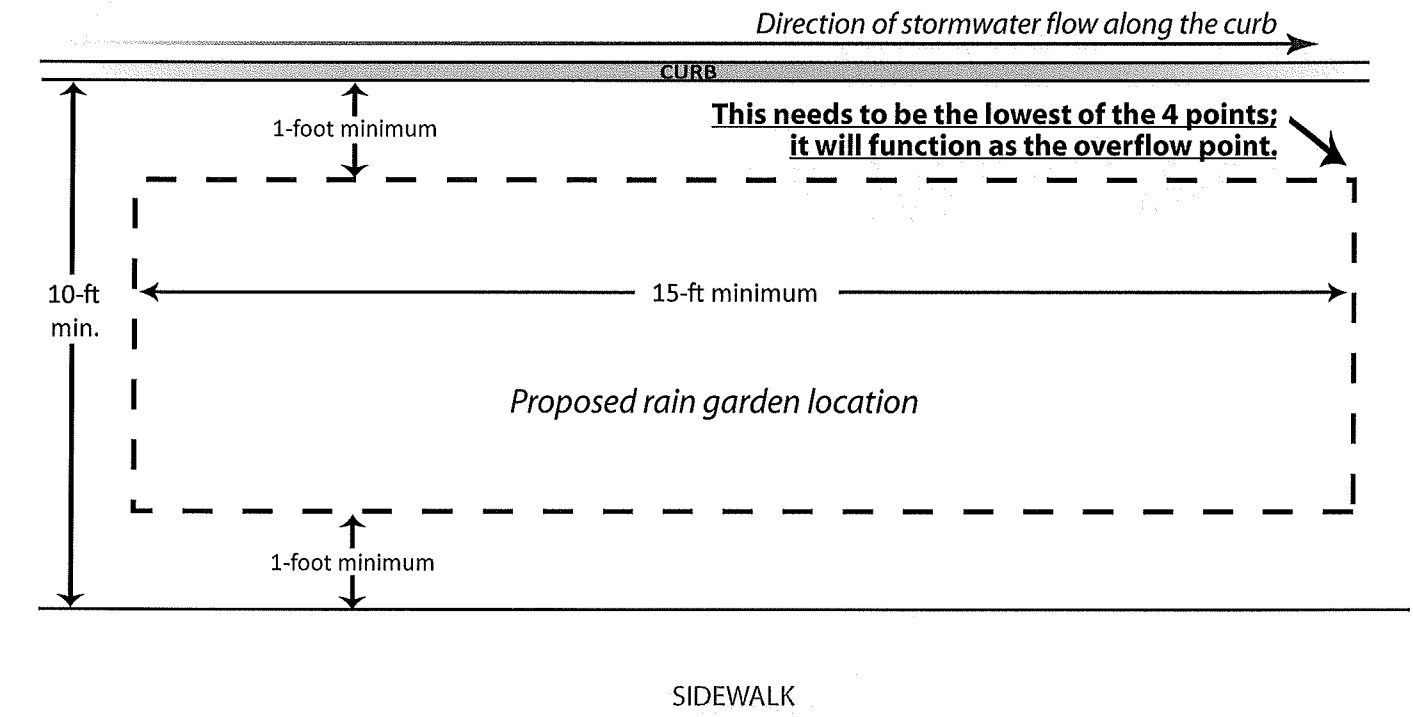
Sincerely,

Robert Phillips, P.E.
City Engineer

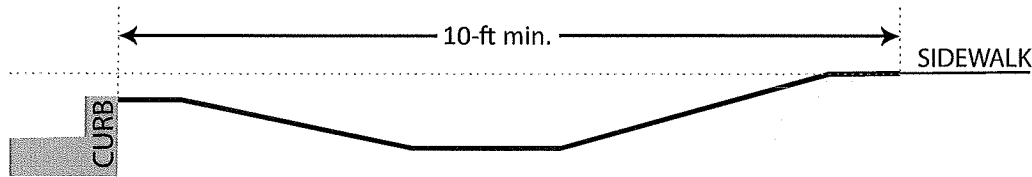
Rain Gardens in the Street Terrace

Determining site suitability:

1. Terrace must be at least 10 feet wide from back of curb to edge of sidewalk
2. Rain garden will be a minimum of 15 feet long
3. Trees need to be at least 10 feet from edge of rain garden
4. Driveways and sidewalk ramps need to be at least 3 feet from edge of rain garden
5. The rain garden would need to overflow back into the curb, away from the sidewalk/house
6. The terrace cannot be too steep in either direction (lengthwise or crosswise).
7. If you are unclear as to a site's suitability, City Engineering staff will do a site visit and make a determination based on the above criteria.

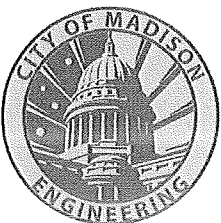


Not to scale



Not to scale

Note that the sidewalk needs to be higher than the curb so that the water overflows back into the street, away from the house.



More information about rain gardens can be found here:
www.cityofmadison.com/engineering/stormwater/raingardens

Questions may be directed to either
Genesis Steinhorst (266-4059) · gsteinhorst@cityofmadison.com
or Greg Fries (267-1199) · gfries@cityofmadison.com