



Outdoor Classroom Materials Budget: RAIN GARDEN

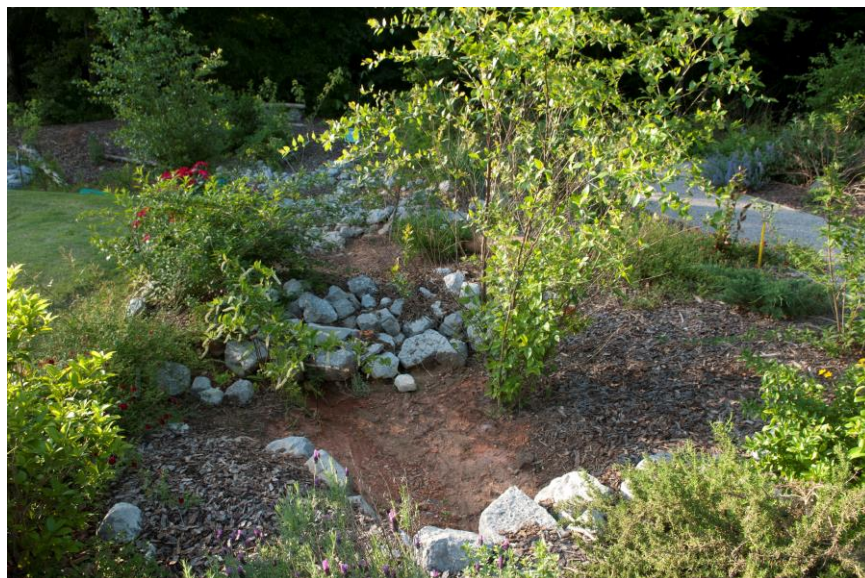
A **Rain Garden**, essentially, is a miniature watershed. At the low point of a dry creek bed or spillway, capturing runoff from hard surfaces (roof, driveway, concrete, asphalt, etc.), a rain garden slows flow and allows rain water to be absorbed into the soil close to where the rain falls and helps to recharge groundwater instead of allowing the runoff to flow downhill to become a destructive force elsewhere. Often, stormwater overwhelms municipal sewer drains, picking up pollutants as it flows, and reaching streams and creeks where it causes more havoc such as erosion problems, sediment pollution, and nutrient pollution (nitrogen from fertilizers and from sewage). These things ultimately cause perils to our drinking water and to wildlife inhabiting the waterways.

Use this environmental concept to mitigate water issues in the schoolyard and create a wildlife habitat at the same time. Plant native plants that are specific to local riparian zones to act as filters, to serve a function of holding the soil in place, and the plants will also serve a greater purpose as the foundation of the food web for wildlife. Riparian plants for a rain gardens might include buttonbush, wax myrtle, elderberry, Virginia sweetspire, inkberry, swamp dogwood, juncus grass, sedges and rushes, cinnamon fern, Joe Pye weed, ironweed, swamp sunflower, golden Alexander, cardinal flower, and rose mallow.

❖ Location Choice Suggestions:

- Low-lying, Moist Area OR Near a Spigot, Downspout, Parking Lot, or Drainage Area** (so that you can divert water into the rain garden or water the garden during low rain level)
- Flat, Horizontal Area along or at the bottom of a spillway** (to slow flow of runoff during rain)
- Area Approved for Digging** (must not have any utility lines in the area)
- Full Sun or Full Shade** (be sure to choose the appropriate plants based on your sunlight conditions)

❖ Example Rain Garden:





OC Materials List & Budget: Rain Garden

❖ Estimated Costs:

- Small Rain Garden (5 ft x 8 ft → ~40 cu ft): \$1,155
- Medium Rain Garden (8 ft x 11 ft → ~75 cu ft): \$1,405
- Large Rain Garden (11 ft x 18 ft → ~165 cu ft): \$2,010

❖ Materials & Supplies Lists with Estimated Budgets:

Example 5 ft x 8 ft x 10 in (~40 cubic ft.) Rain Garden				
Station	Materials & Supplies	Est. Cost	Example Materials	Final Cost
Sm. Rain Garden	(1) Can of Rust-Oleum Professional White Water-based Marking Paint @ ~\$9.98 ea	\$10	Lowe's Item #429750	
Sm. Rain Garden	(1) 6'x50' Sta-Green Professional Landscape Fabric (weed barrier) (16' used for this garden) @~\$33.98 ea	\$35	Lowe's Item #510606	
Sm. Rain Garden	(12) 1 CF/32 Qt Bags of Evergreen Organic Top Soil @~\$2.18 each	\$25 total	Lowe's Item #648834	
Sm. Rain Garden	(33) 0.5 CF Bags of All Purpose Sand @~\$5.18 ea	\$170 total	Lowe's Item #104898	
Sm. Rain Garden	(3) 1 CF Bags of Evergreen Organic Compost and Manure @~\$3.68 ea	\$10 total	Lowe's Item #380606	
Sm. Rain Garden	(1) 2 CF Bags of Evergreen Organic Drainage and Aeration Soil Conditioner @~\$4.58 ea	\$5	Lowe's Item #648829	
Sm. Bog	(1) 3/8-in x 25-ft-Element Kink Free Rubber Black Soaker Hose @ ~\$15.98 ea	\$15	Lowe's Item #2626704	
Sm. Rain Garden	(1) 50-gallon RTS Home Accents Flat Back Brown Rain Barrel (*optional – helps slow flow of rain water and holds water for future watering) @ ~\$209.00 ea	\$210	Lowe's Item #4057929	
Sm. Rain Garden	(1) RTS Home Accents Black Rain Barrel Stand - (*optional – helps elevate spigot to increase water flow out of barrel and allow for room for buckets to catch water coming out of barrel) @ ~\$72.98 ea	\$75	Lowe's Item #4057926	
Sm. Rain Garden	(1) 5/8-in x 6-ft FLEXON Light-Duty Vinyl Green Hose @ ~\$11.98 ea	\$10	Lowe's Item #812743	
Sm. Bog	(1) Universal Diverter System (EarthMinded FlexiFit) (to divert downspout water into rain barrel) @~\$35.95 ea	\$35	https://www.therainbarreldepot.com/earthminded-universal-diverter-system/	
Sm. Rain Garden	(12) Rain Garden Plants (3 different species with 4 of each species) @ ~\$7 ea	\$85 total	Nursery via OC Consultant	
Sm. Rain Garden	(1) Part of One Ton Pallet of Large Landscape Rock for border (shared with rain garden and frog and toad habitat)	\$350	Hardware Store via OC Consultant	





OC Materials List & Budget: Rain Garden

❖ Materials & Supplies Lists with Estimated Budgets (cont.):

Sm. Rain Garden	(3) Plant ID Signs (one for each plant species) @~\$6 ea	\$20 total	https://www.alabamawildlife.org/oc-dig-into-plants/ for details	
Sm. Rain Garden	(3) Biomarkers to hold Plant ID signs (13" stake with a 2" x 4" plate) @ ~\$3 ea (includes S&H)	\$10 total	AWF OC Consultant or https://mcgbiomarkers.com/show/	
Sm. Rain Garden	(1) 18" x 24" .80 Aluminum Sign (with educational information about rain gardens)	\$75	Ask OC Consultant about https://www.alabamawildlife.org/oc-signs/	
Sm. Rain Garden	(1) 6 ft. U-Post for Fence (for educational sign) @~\$10.69 ea	\$10	Lowe's Item #493054	
Sm. Rain Garden	(1) Hillman 1/4-in x 1-1/2 in Zinc-Plated Coarse Thread Hex Bolt (2-count) @~\$0.88 ea	\$5 total	Lowe's Item #137634	
Sm. Rain Garden	(2) Hillman 1/4-in x 20 Zinc-Plated Steel Hex Nut @~\$0.10 ea		Lowe's Item #63301	
Sm. Rain Garden	(2) Hillman 1/4-in Zinc-Plated Standard Flat Washer @~\$0.15 ea		Lowe's Item #63306	
TOTAL ESTIMATED COST: \$1,155				

Example 8 ft x 11 ft x 10 in (~75 cubic ft.) Rain Garden

Station	Materials & Supplies	Est. Cost	Example Materials	Final Cost
Md. Rain Garden	(1) Can of Rust-Oleum Professional White Water-based Marking Paint @ ~\$9.98 ea	\$10	Lowe's Item #429750	
Md. Rain Garden	(1) 6'x50' Sta-Green Professional Landscape Fabric (weed barrier) (16' used for this garden) @~\$33.98 ea	\$35	Lowe's Item #510606	
Md. Rain Garden	(26) 1 CF/32 Qt Bags of Evergreen Organic Top Soil @~\$2.18 each	\$55 total	Lowe's Item #648834	
Md. Rain Garden	(64) 0.5 CF Bags of All Purpose Sand @~\$5.18 ea	\$330 total	Lowe's Item #104898	
Md. Rain Garden	(7) 1 CF Bags of Evergreen Organic Compost and Manure @~\$3.68 ea	\$25 total	Lowe's Item #380606	
Md. Rain Garden	(4) 2 CF Bags of Evergreen Organic Drainage and Aeration Soil Conditioner @~\$4.58 ea	\$20 total	Lowe's Item #648829	
Md. Rain Garden	(1) 50-gallon RTS Home Accents Flat Back Brown Rain Barrel (*optional – helps slow flow of rain water and holds water for future watering) @ ~\$209.00 ea	\$210	Lowe's Item #4057929	
Md. Rain Garden	(1) RTS Home Accents Black Rain Barrel Stand - (*optional – helps elevate spigot to increase water flow out of barrel and allow for room for buckets to catch water coming out of barrel) @ ~\$72.98 ea	\$75	Lowe's Item #4057926	





OC Materials List & Budget: Rain Garden

❖ Materials & Supplies Lists with Estimated Budgets (cont.):

Md. Rain Garden	(1) 5/8-in x 6-ft FLEXON Light-Duty Vinyl Green Hose @ ~\$11.98 ea	\$10	Lowe's Item #812743	
Md. Rain Garden	(1) Universal Diverter System (EarthMinded FlexiFit) <i>(to divert downspout water into rain barrel)</i> @~\$35.95 ea	\$35	https://www.therainbarreldepot.com/earthminded-universal-diverter-system/	
Md. Rain Garden	(18) Rain Garden Plants (3 different species with 6 of each species) @ ~\$7 ea	\$130 total	Nursery via OC Consultant	
Md. Rain Garden	(1) Part of One Ton Pallet of Large Landscape Rock for border (shared with rain garden and frog and toad habitat)	\$350	Hardware Store via OC Consultant	
Md. Rain Garden	(3) Plant ID Signs (one for each plant species) @~\$6 ea	\$20 total	https://www.alabamawildlife.org/oc-dig-into-plants/ for details	
Md. Rain Garden	(3) Biomarkers to hold Plant ID signs (13" stake with a 2" x 4" plate) @ ~\$3 ea <i>(includes S&H)</i>	\$10 total	AWF OC Consultant or https://mcgbiomarkers.com/shop/	
Md. Rain Garden	(1) 18" x 24" .80 Aluminum Sign <i>(with educational information about rain gardens)</i>	\$75	Ask OC Consultant about https://www.alabamawildlife.org/oc-signs/	
Md. Rain Garden	(1) 6 ft. U-Post for Fence <i>(for educational sign)</i> @~\$10.69 ea	\$10	Lowe's Item #493054	
Md. Rain Garden	(1) Hillman 1/4-in x 1-1/2 in Zinc-Plated Coarse Thread Hex Bolt (2-count) @~\$0.88 ea	\$5 total	Lowe's Item #137634	
Md. Rain Garden	(2) Hillman 1/4-in x 20 Zinc-Plated Steel Hex Nut @~\$0.10 ea		Lowe's Item #63301	
Md. Rain Garden	(2) Hillman 1/4-in Zinc-Plated Standard Flat Washer @~\$0.15 ea		Lowe's Item #63306	
TOTAL ESTIMATED COST: \$1,405				

Example 11 ft x 18 ft x 10 in (~165 cubic ft.) Rain Garden

Station	Materials & Supplies	Est. Cost	Example Materials	Final Cost
Lg. Rain Garden	(1) Can of Rust-Oleum Professional White Water-based Marking Paint @ ~\$9.98 ea	\$10	Lowe's Item #429750	
Lg. Rain Garden	(1) 6'x50' Sta-Green Professional Landscape Fabric (weed barrier) <i>(16' used for this garden)</i> @~\$33.98 ea	\$35	Lowe's Item #510606	
Lg. Rain Garden	(58) 1 CF/32 Qt Bags of Evergreen Organic Top Soil @~\$2.18 each	\$125 total	Lowe's Item #648834	
Lg. Rain Garden	(148) 0.5 CF Bags of All Purpose Sand @~\$5.18 ea	\$765 total	Lowe's Item #104898	
Lg. Rain Garden	(15) 1 CF Bags of Evergreen Organic Compost and Manure @~\$3.68 ea	\$55 total	Lowe's Item #380606	





OC Materials List & Budget: Rain Garden

❖ Materials & Supplies Lists with Estimated Budgets (cont.):

Lg. Rain Garden	(9) 2 CF Bags of Evergreen Organic Drainage and Aeration Soil Conditioner @~\$4.58 ea	\$40 total	Lowe's Item #648829	
Lg. Rain Garden	(1) 50-gallon RTS Home Accents Flat Back Brown Rain Barrel (*optional – helps slow flow of rain water and holds water for future watering) @ ~\$209.00 ea	\$210	Lowe's Item #4057929	
Lg. Rain Garden	(1) RTS Home Accents Black Rain Barrel Stand - (*optional – helps elevate spigot to increase water flow out of barrel and allow for room for buckets to catch water coming out of barrel) @ ~\$72.98 ea	\$75	Lowe's Item #4057926	
Lg. Rain Garden	(1) 5/8-in x 6-ft FLEXON Light-Duty Vinyl Green Hose @ ~\$11.98 ea	\$10	Lowe's Item #812743	
Lg. Rain Garden	(1) Universal Diverter System (EarthMinded FlexiFit) (to divert downspout water into rain barrel) @~\$35.95 ea	\$35	https://www.therainbarreldepot.com/earthminded-universal-diverter-system/	
Lg. Rain Garden	(24) Rain Garden Plants (4 different species with 6 of each species) @ ~\$7 ea	\$170 total	Nursery via OC Consultant	
Lg. Rain Garden	(1) Part of One Ton Pallet of Large Landscape Rock for border (shared with rain garden and frog and toad habitat)	\$350	Hardware Store via OC Consultant	
Lg. Rain Garden	(4) Plant ID Signs (one for each plant species) @~\$6 ea	\$25 total	https://www.alabamawildlife.org/oc-dig-into-plants/ for details	
Lg. Rain Garden	(4) Biomarkers to hold Plant ID signs (13" stake with a 2" x 4" plate) @ ~\$3 ea (includes S&H)	\$15 total	AWF OC Consultant or https://mcgbiomarkers.com/show/	
Lg. Rain Garden	(1) 18" x 24" .80 Aluminum Sign (with educational information about rain gardens)	\$75	Ask OC Consultant about https://www.alabamawildlife.org/oc-signs/	
Lg. Rain Garden	(1) 6 ft. U-Post for Fence (for educational sign) @~\$10.69 ea	\$10	Lowe's Item #493054	
Lg. Rain Garden	(1) Hillman 1/4-in x 1-1/2 in Zinc-Plated Coarse Thread Hex Bolt (2-count) @~\$0.88 ea	\$5 total	Lowe's Item #137634	
Lg. Rain Garden	(2) Hillman 1/4-in x 20 Zinc-Plated Steel Hex Nut @~\$0.10 ea		Lowe's Item #63301	
Lg. Rain Garden	(2) Hillman 1/4-in Zinc-Plated Standard Flat Washer @~\$0.15 ea		Lowe's Item #63306	
TOTAL ESTIMATED COST: \$2,010				

