

# Lake Superior Rain Garden Challenge

## Protecting the Great Lakes, One Rain Garden at a Time!

Great Lakes One Water (GLOW) Partnership

### Introduction:

The Lake Superior Rain Garden Challenge promotes the use of rain gardens as one way to improve stormwater quality and protect the Great Lakes. The project will provide material, labor, and technical design funding assistance for three residential rain gardens (up to \$2,000 each) and two commercial or institutional rain gardens (up to \$3,000 each) in the City of Marquette in 2020. A rain garden that is funded by this grant will serve as a demonstration project to help others learn about rain gardens and encourage people to create their own rain garden. Therefore, grant recipients must agree to allow GLOW partners to promote the rain garden for educational purposes as follows:

- Photo document your rain garden at various stages that may include before, during, and immediately after installation, as well as subsequent years to monitor its progress;
- Allow the rain garden details and photos to be published online, including a project website, social media, and/or other publications; and
- Display a "Protecting the Great Lakes, One Rain Garden at a Time!" sign in the rain garden as provided by the GLOW Partnership.

### Applications and Project Awards:

- Applications will be received through April 15, 2020, with awardees selected by May 15.
- Award funding requires a 10% cash match (e.g., a project with a total cost of \$2,000 will require \$200 paid by the property owner).
- The process includes:
  1. A review of the submitted residential or commercial/institutional rain garden application based on eligibility standards and evaluation criteria.
  2. A site visit in early spring to determine if the proposed location is suitable for a rain garden. For example, the site should be strategically located to collect as much impervious area runoff as possible. Often, this means utilizing low-lying areas where water naturally drains but does not pool. See the eligibility and evaluation criteria sections below for more information.
  3. If selected for funding, the Superior Watershed Partnership and a qualified landscape professional will work closely with individual awardees to plan and implement each rain garden. With awardee input and site needs considered, the SWP will work to source plants, materials, and equipment/contractor support as needed and within the scope of the project budget. The SWP's Great Lakes Conservation Corps will be available to implement each rain garden project during spring/summer 2020.

**NOTE:** Direct expenses by the property owner/awardee should be avoided unless absolutely necessary and discussed with the grant contact prior to purchase. Any agreed upon expenses by the property owner/awardee will require copies of receipts for reimbursement.

**Eligibility:**

The following criteria are the minimum eligibility standards that must be met for the application to be considered:

- The project is within Marquette's city limits and will be located on residential, commercial, or institutional property.
- Applications must be submitted by the property owner.
- The rain garden is designed in a way that will reduce stormwater runoff from the site and improve water quality.
- The rain garden is highly visible from the public right-of-way to support awareness/education.
- Plant materials to be used are in accordance with City of Marquette Land Development Code—Section 54.1004 Standards for Plant Materials.

**Criteria to evaluate the applications:**

1. Ability to help address localized stormwater issues.
2. Amount of impervious surface area treated by the rain garden. Examples of impervious surfaces include streets, roofs, parking lots, paved driveways, patios, etc.
3. Creativity of design and application of appropriate design basics.
4. Visibility of the site for furthering awareness of green stormwater infrastructure techniques.
5. Selection of plant species.
6. Presence or absence of other stormwater treatment best practices on site.
7. Other unique features as presented by the applicant.

**Eligible Expenses:**

The Lake Superior Rain Garden Challenge will fund project expenses up to a maximum of \$2,000 for residential projects and \$3,000 for commercial (small business) or institutional (school, office building, etc.) projects. Project funding requires a 10% match paid by the applicant. The following items are eligible expenses:

1. Perennial plants, seeds, or native cultivars.
2. Shredded hardwood mulch.
3. Soil amendments.
4. Materials to connect the impervious area runoff to the rain garden.
5. Labor and equipment rental costs.

\*NOTE: The Superior Watershed Partnership will work with each awardee and a landscape professional to source plants, materials, and equipment/contractor support as needed and within the scope of the project budget. Direct expenses by the property owner/awardee should be avoided unless absolutely necessary and discussed with the grant contact prior to purchase. Any agreed upon expenses by the property owner/awardee will require copies of receipts for reimbursement. Only expenses incurred AFTER the notification of a grant award will be considered for reimbursement.

Any reimbursement requests must include:

- Receipts for materials and services purchased (a form will be provided).
- An itemized list of any donated materials and their value.

All reimbursement requests for projects completed must be submitted no later than December 31, 2020. **Costs incurred before the project was approved will not be reimbursed.**

#### **Information about Selecting Plant Materials:**

It is often best to select native plants for your garden—plant species that flourished in Michigan prior to European settlement. Native plants can be found for every type of environment, from dry and sunny to soggy and shady. With their variety of colors, heights, foliage, and bloom times, they can add beauty and interest to any landscape. Native plants:

- Are naturally adapted to the soils and weather conditions of the area, so they need little care once they've become established. If they're planted in the proper location, they do not need fertilization, irrigation, or winter protection.
- Provide food and cover for wildlife. Native plants attract butterflies, dragonflies, birds, and a host of other pollinator species to a garden.
- Have deep roots that provide a path for water to seep into the ground, thereby slowing runoff and limiting soil loss from the site.

For a list of regional native plants including grasses, wildflowers, shrubs, and trees, refer to:

[https://www.canr.msu.edu/nativeplants/plant\\_facts/local\\_info/upper\\_peninsula](https://www.canr.msu.edu/nativeplants/plant_facts/local_info/upper_peninsula)

Based on the undesirability of the following species, they are prohibited from being planted as required landscaping under the City of Marquette Land Development Code (Section 54.1004(C)):

- Ash
- Aspen
- Black Locust
- Blue Spruce
- Box Elder
- Buckthorn
- Cottonwood
- Elm
- Ginkgo (Female)
- Honey Locust (with thorns)
- Honeysuckle
- Horse Chestnut (nut bearing)
- Jack Pine
- Multiflora Rose
- Norway Maple (unless a specific species is acceptable)
- Olive
- Phragmites
- Poplar
- Purple Loosestrife
- Silver Maple
- Tree of Heaven
- Willow
- Any species of plant deemed to be a noxious species by a City Code or City Official qualified to deem a species as noxious.

#### **Landscape Contractors:**

With design and construction oversight from a qualified landscape architect, the Superior Watershed Partnership will provide Great Lakes Conservation Corps (GLCC) crews to implement each rain garden. There is a reduced cost for their services that will be applied to the project cost. Alternatively, if preferred by the awardee, other area landscapers may be utilized to complete project objectives. However, plans and associated costs must be discussed with the grant contact prior to implementation. Any agreed upon expenses by the property owner/awardee will require copies of receipts for reimbursement.

**Questions? Please Contact:**

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Completed applications may be submitted electronically below or via hardcopy to the contact noted above

**Lake Superior Rain Garden Challenge Application**  
**APPLICATIONS DUE APRIL 15, 2020**

1. Name of resident or business/institution:
  
2. Applicant address:
  
3. Address of proposed rain garden (if different from applicant address—must be within Marquette city limits):
  
4. Applicant daytime phone number:
  
5. Applicant email:
  
6. Please provide a brief description of your proposed rain garden, including anticipated size, plant species, and materials to be used. Please upload or include with your hardcopy application a sketch or photo/satellite image identifying the site location and anticipated design, if possible.
  
7. Explain why you think your site would be a good location for a rain garden (including any current stormwater issues on your property):

8. The rain garden will be (check one):  
 Landowner designed                       SWP/contractor designed with landowner input
9. Rain gardens need weeding, watering, and mulching to preserve their health and function. At a minimum, you will need to cut or pull dead vegetation each spring and weed it 2 to 3 times per growing season. Check which box indicates your maintenance plan:  
 Self-maintained                       Contracted Maintenance
10. Does the proposed location meet the following criteria? (Answer Yes/No/Uncertain)  
 Garden is completely on private property (ideally, the project will not encroach into the public right-of-way)  
 Garden is not encroaching on neighboring properties  
 Garden is not over underground utilities (electric, phone, cable, natural gas, storm sewer, sanitary sewer, water)  
 Slope < 12% (12' rise over 100' distance)
11. What impervious surfaces do you plan to capture runoff from? (Check all that apply.)  
 House roof                       Walkway or patio  
 Garage roof                       Parking  
 Driveway                       Other surface (explain):
12. Are you planning to utilize Great Lakes Conservation Corps assistance with the project?  
 Yes                       No

NOTE: There is a reduced cost for GLCC services that will be factored into each individual project budget.

13. Please provide a basic budget for the project detailing anticipated costs for labor, plants, and other materials: