



Protecting the Environment, One Rain Barrel at a Time

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Introduction

What is a rain barrel?

A rain barrel is a system that collects rainwater from your roof that would otherwise be lost. Collected water can be used during times when water is low (www.cpa.gov/region3/p2/what-is-rainbarrel.pdf).

What is a rain garden?

A rain garden is a planted dip in the ground that collects runoff water from a place where water can't get through (www.moriver.org/raingardens/raingardens.html).

Do rain gardens create habitats?

Our rain garden provides food, water, cover and shelter for animals. Food is provided by bird feeders, grasses and flowers. Water is provided by our rain barrel. Cover is created by grasses. Tall grasses are shelter. All these things are needed to create a habitat (www.nwf.org/Get-Outside/Outdoor-Activities/Garden-for-Wildlife/Create-a-Habitat.aspx).

Does the rain barrel help create the rain garden habitat?

The rain barrel supplies our garden with a constant flow of water. This helps to create a habitat.

How do rain gardens help the environment?

A rain garden will help preserve the environment by taking runoff water. Rain water carries pollutants like oil, salt, fertilizer, pesticides, pet waste, transportation chemicals, and sediment. Rain gardens capture these pollutants and the plant roots and soil break these pollutants down. This gives us cleaner water (www.raingardennetwork.com/whyplantraingarden.htm).

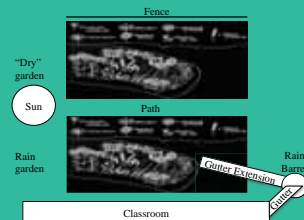
Methods

What to measure.

1. Plant growth in the dry garden vs. the rain garden
2. Soil temperature each week using a thermometer
3. Classify butterflies, birds, and insects
4. The acidity of rainwater vs. tap water.

Design.

Garden Placement



Garden Arrangement



Expected outcomes

1. The plants in the rain garden will be taller than the plants in the dry garden
2. We think that soil temperature will be higher in the dry garden than the wet garden.
3. The rain garden will attract a lot of different animal species.
4. Rain water will be more acidic because all of the waste that is in our environment.

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