

Martin Lake Rain Gardens

This project is a direct result of the 2011 Martin Lake Stormwater Assessment. That project identified opportunities to improve treatment of stormwater before it reached Martin Lake. Among the stormwater retrofits, several rain gardens ranked among the most cost effective.

In fall 2011 three residential, curb-cut rain gardens were installed in the yards of willing homeowners. All of these rain gardens were located at the end of a long run of curb, and just up-gradient of a catch basin that would direct the water into the lake. A cut in the curb was created, directing the water into the excavated rain garden basin. In the rain garden, storm water soaks into the ground through the engineered soils. Standing water is present for no more than 48 hours after storms, and often much less. If the garden fills to the curb elevation during heavy rains, water will simply pass by the rain garden and go to the catch basin.

These three rain gardens will prevent an estimated 1.8 pounds of phosphorus from entering Martin Lake each year, as well as 596 pounds of solids. Phosphorus is the nutrient that fuels algae blooms that are a common problem in Martin Lake. This project and others like it are important steps toward helping Martin Lake meet state water quality standards.

These projects were a collaboration between the SRWMO, Anoka Conservation District, landowners, Linwood Township, and the Minnesota Conservation Corps. Partial project dollars were provided by the Clean Water Fund (from the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment).

Map of rain garden locations:



Before and after photos of the installed rain gardens. The “after” photos were taken in late fall. Flowers and other plants will be more apparent in the spring.

BEFORE

AFTER

