

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES INVENTORY
OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN

PROJECT: Bowers Farm Rain Garden

CATEGORY:
Stormwater Management

PRACTICE:
Rain Gardens

CONTACT:
SOCWA Healthy Lawns and Gardens

3910 W Webster Road, Royal Oak, MI 48073

248-288-5150

<http://www.bloomfield.org/farm/>

OWNER: Bloomfield Hills Schools

PARTNERS:
Oakland County Master Gardener Association, Bloomfield Hills
Schools, Bowers Farms, SOCWA

DESIGN: Martha Humphrey, SOCWA Master Composter & Oakland
County Master Gardener: b4bylon6@ameritech.net

CONSTRUCTION: Bowers Farm staff, Master Gardener volunteers

MAINTENANCE: Master Gardener Association of Oakland County

DATE INITIATED: Spring & Summer 2004

INITIAL COST: (not submitted)

MAINTENANCE COST: (not submitted)/year

PROJECT

Located at 1219 East Square Lake Road (east of Adams Rd.; north side), the Bowers Farm Rain Garden is "on the hill" near other volunteer-maintained flower and herb gardens. The rain garden is down-slope from the education building and receives a torrent of rain water during major storm events. 12 feet x 24 feet. Native soil was excavated by the Bowers Farms staff. The "hole" was filled with about 10 cubic yards of SOCRRA yard waste compost, with some sharp sand mixed in (15% estimated). SOCWA delivered the compost to the site. Several stone wall "berms" or "terraces" were installed to minimize erosion on the hillside. Native wildflowers and grasses used. The site is used extensively for school field trips and nature study. The rain garden is close to a number of other gardens of interest to students and adults. Thousands of Bloomfield Hills elementary students visit Bowers Farms each year. Staff have indicated their interest in teaching "water cycle" and "ecosystem" lessons from the rain garden. The garden is also a great education spot for the "Open Barn" and other public events.



Bloomfield Hills Public Schools – Bowers Farm newly planted rain garden. Photo courtesy of Lillian Dean, Coordinator, SOCWA Healthy Lawns and Gardens