

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES INVENTORY
OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN

PROJECT: Eisenhower Elementary School Rain

CATEGORY:
Stormwater Management

PRACTICE:
Rain Gardens

CONTACT:
SOCWA Healthy Lawns and Gardens

3910 W Webster Road, Royal Oak, MI 48073

248-288-5150



Eisenhower Elementary School, Southfield – prior to rain garden installation. Photo courtesy Lillian Dean, SOCWA Healthy Lawns & Gardens

OWNER: Eisenhower Elementary, Southfield Public Schools

PARTNERS:
Southfield Public Schools Grounds and Maintenance, SOCWA Healthy Lawns and Gardens, Eisenhower Elementary School staff & students

DESIGN: Lillian Dean

CONSTRUCTION: Southfield School District staff, Grounds and Maintenance

MAINTENANCE: Eisenhower Elementary School students & staff, neighborhood volunteers, SOCWA



Newly planted rain garden. Photo courtesy Lillian Dean, SOCWA Healthy Lawns & Gardens

DATE INITIATED: May 2005

INITIAL COST: (not submitted)

MAINTENANCE COST: (not submitted)/year

PROJECT

Located at 24500 Larkins. (1/2 mile south of 10 Mile Rd; 1/2 mile east of Beech Rd. west of Telegraph.) the Eisenhower Elementary School rain garden receives stormwater run-off from the roof of the school. The storm water is transported to the garden via 3 downspouts (enclosed pipes) connected underground to a perforated pipe and overflow system. The native sandy soil was excavated to a depth of 2.5 feet and removed by Southfield School District staff in May 2005. Grounds and maintenance staff then installed the piping system underground (like a septic system) which connected downspouts to the garden via enclosed pipe. A portion of the pipe is perforated with holes on the bottom to allow infiltration of storm water. Excess storm water "bubbles up" to the surface and overflows into the garden. Pea gravel was placed under the pipe to help with filtration and to minimize clogging. SOCRRA donated yard waste compost (about 15 yards) which was used to fill the "hole". Three inches of shredded bark mulch were placed on top of the garden after an all-native wildflower garden was created using plants purchased from the Native Plant Nursery in Ann Arbor. The 2nd grade class has a door opening onto the garden – providing an excellent education opportunity. Even with very small plants, the garden was a place of learning and discovery for young students, especially special needs students.