

Introducing the Rain Garden Guardians Program!

City of Chattanooga - Public Works - Water Quality Program and Parks Maintenance with Parks Stewards

General description

Do you want to learn more about rain gardens, gardening with native plants, supporting urban wildlife, stormwater pollution, green infrastructure design, plant i.d., or exotic invasive management? Are you interested in low impact exercise, more time outside, earning volunteer hours, picking up a new skill, or meeting people with similar interests?

Come visit us on a Rain Garden Guardian Day for an educational tour or to volunteer!

On the first (1st) and fourth (4th) Thursday of the month, a Rain Garden Guardians work day will be scheduled at either Stringer's Ridge Pumptrack, Warner Park, Patten Rec. Center, or Renaissance Park. Drop in anytime between 9:00am-3:00pm for a tour or to work with us hands-on managing these public rain gardens.

Our City rain garden sites are designed to catch polluted stormwater runoff. Through natural processes these sites protect our waterways and communities by filtering out pollutants, reducing flooding, and providing habitat and green spaces.

Sharing basic information about water quality and sustainable landscaping is very important to us. Opportunities to build hands-on horticultural experience can be hard to find. This is a chance to ask questions and learn from stormwater and plant nerd professionals.

Contact

Contact Lyn Rutherford, lrutherford@chattanooga.gov, with questions and to get on our emailing list. *We will happily arrange separate private volunteer or tour events for larger groups.*

Participant expectations: Come prepared to learn and ask questions, and if working get dirty, and be in the sun. We recommend long, loose fitting pants with a belt (great for hanging hand tools on), closed toe shoes, gardening gloves, hat, sunscreen, sunglasses, water bottle, and a nutritious snack. Bringing your own hand tools and gloves is recommended, but we have some to share.

Work may include: Hand weeding, plant i.d., digging, mulching, pruning large or woody plants, uprooting exotic invasive plants, raking debris, standing, squatting, kneeling, lifting, etc.

Dates and Locations:

9:00am-3:00pm drop in for any amount of time!

7/25	Warner Park
8/1	Patten Rec
8/22	Renaissance Rain Garden
9/5	Stringer's Ridge Pumptrack
9/26	Warner Park
10/3	Patten Rec
10/24	Renaissance Rain Garden
11/7	Stringer's Ridge Pumptrack

Site Address and Description:

Each site features bioretention basins, also called rain gardens, landscaped with native plants. All sites have bathrooms and parking near the site for easy access to supplies left in your vehicle.

Warner Park - 1254 E 3rd St, Chattanooga, TN 37404

4 basins and surrounding landscape in the Fitness Center parking lot near the Recycle Center. 80+ native species present!

Patten Rec. Center - 3202 Kellys Ferry Rd, Chattanooga, TN 37419

3 basins in the front parking lot of John A. Patten Rec. Center. This beautiful and diverse site needs more manicured care.

Stringer's Ridge Pumptrack - 1312 Spears Ave, Chattanooga, TN 37405

This grassland area downhill from the Stringer's Ridge trailhead has a mountain bike pump track and stormwater basins. This is a wild and fun site with an on-going exotic invasive management focus.

Renaissance Park Raingarden - 99 River St, Chattanooga, TN 37405

Small rain garden in center of parking lot near Market St. bridge. May also assist with other specialized landscaping work in the wetland area of Renaissance Park.

Your guides:

Lyn Rutherford and Lucy Ellis are City of Chattanooga employees that work in the Water Quality Program. Lyn has a degree in biology from Warren Wilson College, and has worked in wildlife conservation, wildlands management, and landscaping. Lucy has a degree in Environmental Biology from UTC, and has worked as a field botanist with wildlands management, and plant conservation.

