

Introducing the Rain Garden Guardians Program

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

General description

On the first (1st) and fourth (4th) Thursday of the month, a Rain Garden Guardians work day will be scheduled at one of four locations: Spears Ave Pumptrack, Warner Park, Patten Rec. Center, and Renaissance Park Raingarden. 9:00am-3:00pm drop in anytime.

These public rain garden sites are designed to catch polluted stormwater runoff. Through natural processes these sites protect our waterways and citizens by filtering water, reducing flooding, and providing habitat. Each site is a little different; explore a new native plant landscape each week!

Sharing basic information about sustainable landscaping and providing a chance to build hands-on horticultural experience is very important to us. We will discuss topics like water quality, green infrastructure, pollinators and other wildlife, plant i.d, exotic invasive vegetation management, proper pruning technique, nutrient management, low impact landscaping, and more.

Contact Lyn Rutherford, lrutherford@chattanooga.gov, with questions and to get on our mailing list.

Participant expectations: Come prepared to get dirty, be in the sun, to learn and have fun! We recommend long, loose fitting pants with belt (great for hanging hand tools on), closed toe shoes, gardening gloves, hat, sunscreen, sunglasses, water bottle, 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, pulling or cutting vegetation, 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!

5/23 - Warner Park

6/6 - Patten Rec

6/27 - Renaissance Rain Garden

7/3 - Spears Ave (Wednesday instead of 4th of July)

7/25 - Warner Park

8/1 - Patten Rec

8/22 - Renaissance Rain Garden

9/5 - Spears Ave

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!

Spears Ave. Pumptrack - 1312 Spears Ave, Chattanooga, TN 37405

Nearby landscape and 5 basins surrounded by bike paths, downhill from the Stringer's Ridge trailhead. This is a wild and fun site with an on-going exotic invasive management focus.

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.

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.

