

RITA in Action

Rainscaping in Pulaski County

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Nearly every drop of water that falls in Pulaski County has the potential to make its way into the Tippecanoe River. From there, water flows into the Wabash, Ohio, and Mississippi Rivers, eventually making its way to the Atlantic Ocean! The choices we make that affect our water in Northern Indiana have consequences that can create big ripples way downstream.



I helped the Pulaski County SWCD partner with Purdue Extension to host a Rain Garden Workshop, to give Hoosiers in our region the opportunity to learn all about the interconnectedness of water and how they can use rain gardens on their property to improve water quality. Rain gardens are a conservation practice that can be installed on private residences to slow down rain and snowmelt, allowing water to infiltrate into the soil, rather than accumulate pollutants and runoff directly into streams and lakes.

Workshops that raise awareness about conservation practices and teach people how to implement them have the potential to make a huge impact in Pulaski County, where 75.1% of properties are occupied by the owner (U.S. Census, 2020). We can empower landowners to make conservation efforts by providing them with knowledge and resources.

We held our Rain Garden workshop at Winamac Town Park at the end of May. The weather was perfect, and attendees enjoyed learning about watersheds and rainscaping under the shade of the picnic shelter. Winamac Town Park graciously allowed us to install a demonstration rain garden during our workshop, so attendees were able to gain hands-on experience planting a rain garden. And, thanks to support from Arrowhead RC&D, we were also able to provide each attendee with a free copy of the Blue Thumb Guide to Rain Gardens! As a





RITA technician, I was very excited to help move this project forward by securing the grant funding and pulling in partners to expand the impact of this event.

Soon, we will install an interpretive sign at the Winamac Town Park rain garden, so that it can continue to serve as an educational resource for the community. We look forward to watching the garden bloom and grow, and we hope the community's interest in rain gardens grows as well!