HOW TO DESIGN AND BUILD A RAIN GARDEN
Overview of three phases

SITE ASESSMENT PHASE

Inventory your property

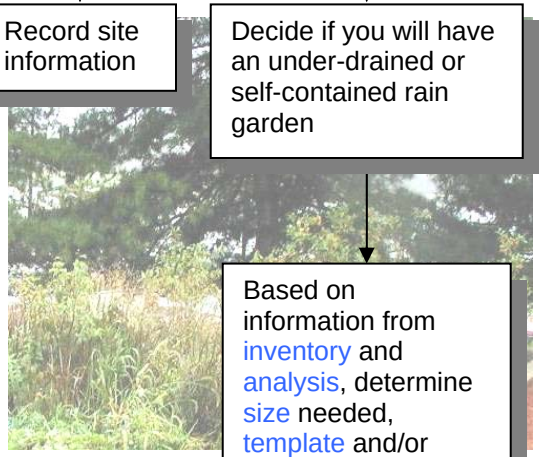
Make a scale drawing/ map of property at 1/2" = 1', 1/8"= 1' or 1/4" = 1'

Record site information

Analyze your site

Locate rain garden area; determine volume of water to be flowing into the garden (i.e. this tells you how deep you need to dig and the SF of the surface of the garden) see: www.lid-stormwater.net/bioretention/bio_sizing.htm

Decide if you will have an under-drained or self-contained rain garden



Based on information from inventory and analysis, determine size needed, template and/or plant list to use

DESIGN PHASE

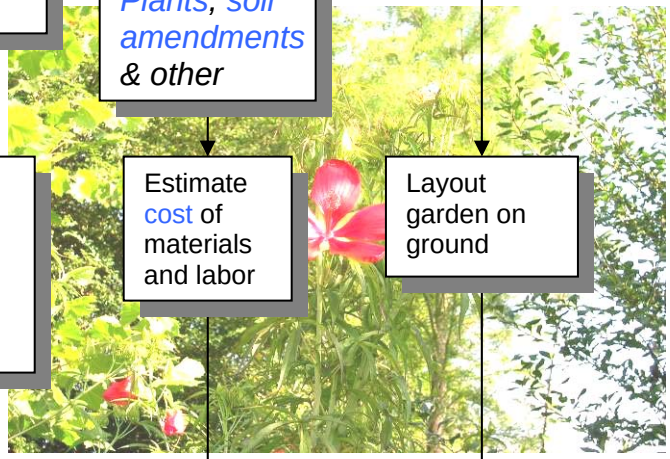
Concept Development & Template selection

Choose template and adjust shape and size to fit site

Copy template onto your site map at the appropriate scale

Determine which plants and how many and what size

Make materials needed list: Plants, soil amendments & other



Estimate cost of materials and labor

Buy Soil Amendments and mulch

CONSTRUCTION PHASE

Site Preparation

Layout garden on ground

Excavate and amend as required (see specs)

Mulch

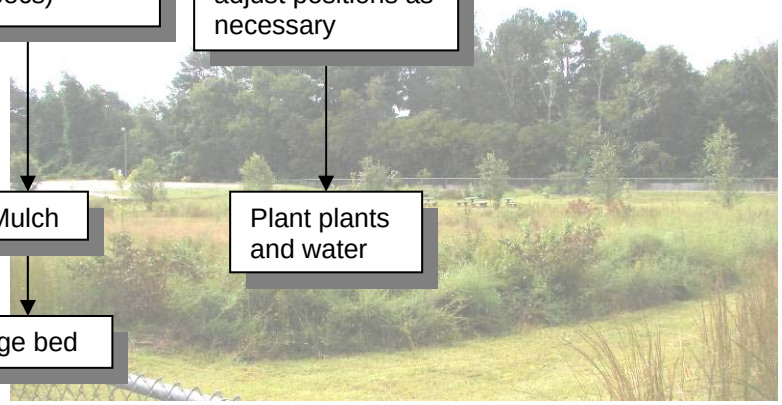
Edge bed

Installation

Purchase plants from reputable nursery

Layout plants according to plan; adjust positions as necessary

Plant plants and water

Maintenance

Water during establishment period and maintain as needed