

LANDSCAPING

..... FOR

CLEAN WATER



**Macatawa Area
Coordinating Council**
A Cooperative Effort Among Units of Government

STEPS TO PROTECT OUR WATER

Well maintained lawns and landscapes add value to our homes and quality of life. Follow these simple steps to ensure that your landscape has a positive impact on your watershed!

Improve water quality. Collect and filter rainwater runoff in landscape features. This prevents runoff from carrying pollution into nearby drains, streams and lakes. Landscape features include rain gardens, other native plant gardens and vegetated buffers adjacent to water.

Prevent erosion. Landscape features, like rain gardens and vegetated buffers, can prevent erosion if they include native plants. Native plants have deep roots that hold the soil in place and help water soak into the soil instead of running off.

Reduce flooding. Most of the rain that falls on your house, decks, driveway, and even lawns runs off into the nearest storm drain. Fully vegetated landscapes reduce runoff by about 75%! This helps reduce the volume that travels in storm drains which can prevent flooding.

Save water. A rain barrel can be used to capture and store rainwater for later use. Capturing water this way also helps to improve water quality, prevent erosion and reduce flooding. Plus you can reuse the water for irrigation and reduce your water bill!

Provide habitat. Native plants in the landscape not only protect water quality, but provide valuable habitat for songbirds, butterflies, hummingbirds, and a variety of beneficial insects.