RAIN GARDEN FACT SHEET

CITY OF LATHRUP VILLAGE –
LATHRUP VILLAGE COMMUNITY RAIN GARDEN

Location: 27400 Southfield Road; near the north entrance road and parking lot.

Site Owner/Manager: Jeff Mueller, City Administrator, City of Lathrup Village, 248-557-2600 Ext 236.

Rain Garden Design and Public Education Contact: Lillian Dean, SOCWA Healthy Lawns and Gardens.

Project partners: City of Lathrup Village, SOCWA Healthy Lawns and Gardens

Origin of storm water: Entrance road to north parking lot.

Area covered by rain garden: 50 feet long by 25 feet wide

Construction method: Excavation and removal of clay soil to a depth of about 3 feet. Original clay soil replaced with a mix of 2/3 yard waste compost and 1/3 sharp sand. Stone filter (stones wrapped in landscape fabric) placed in the front of the garden to encourage infiltration. Several perforated pipes (4 feet long) were placed at a depth of 2 feet to encourage overflow drainage to the storm drain pipe (leading to the drainage system on Southfield Road)

Site condition prior to rain garden installation: Prior to rain garden installation, the site was an eyesore with broken concrete and disturbed soil.

Planting plan: PLANTED JUNE 2002 by SOCWA volunteers. Barbara Bini and Celeste Watts, SOCWA volunteers, prepared the design plan for approval by the City staff. The shrubs and wildflowers were then purchased by Lathrup Village.

Maintenance plan: Many maintenance tasks (including plant replacement, weeding, pruning) are handled primarily by SOCWA volunteers. Lathrup Village DPW staff assist if needed for heavy lifting or digging. Watering is handled by Lathrup Village as part of the lawn watering program.

Special features and benefits:
• The Lathrup Village Community Rain Garden was the first installed in Oakland County. The garden project has received two awards:
  - Rouge River Habitat Award – 2002
  - Keep Michigan Beautiful Award – 2003
• Rain garden enthusiasts as well as others regularly visit the site for ideas.
• Mary Kearney, Lathrup Village volunteer, prepared a planting guide to the Community rain garden and several of the individual residential rain gardens.
• SOCWA uses the site for public education workshops.
Rain Garden construction, City Offices, Lathrup Village

Newly planted Rain Garden, City Offices, Lathrup Village