RAIN GARDEN FACT SHEET

SOUTHLIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS –
EISENHOWER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL RAIN GARDEN

Location: Eisenhower Elementary School, 24500 Larkins, Southfield (1/2 mile south of 10 Mile Rd; ½ mile east of Beech Rd. west of Telegraph. The rain garden is just to the left of the school entrance).

Site Owner/Manager: Lynda Wood, Former Principal, Eisenhower Elementary; Currently Curriculum Coordinator, Southfield Public Schools

Rain Garden Design and Public Education Contact:
Lillian Dean, SOCWA Healhty Lawns and Gardens, 248-546-5818 or LFDean@aol.com

Project partners: Southfield Public Schools, Grounds and Maintenance
SOCWA Healthy Lawns and Gardens
Teachers and staff, Eisenhower Elementary School

Origin of storm water: Storm water is from the roof of the school. The storm water is transported to the garden via 3 downspouts (enclosed pipes) connected underground to a perforated pipe and overflow system.

Area covered by rain garden: Approximately 50 ft x 50 ft.

Construction Date: May 2005

Construction method: The native sandy soil was excavated to a depth of 2.5 feet and removed by Southfield School District staff in May 2005. Grounds and maintenance staff then installed the piping system underground (like a septic system) which connected downspouts to the garden via enclosed pipe. A portion of the pipe is perforated with holes on the bottom to all infiltration of storm water. Excess storm water “bubbles up” to the surface and overflows into the garden.

Pea gravel was placed under the pipe to help with filtration and to minimize clogging. SOCRRA donated yard waste compost (about 15 yards), which was used to fill the “hole”. Three inches of shredded bark mulch were placed on top of the garden.

Site condition prior to rain garden installation: Soaking wet grass was on the site.

Planting plan: An all-native wildflower garden has been planted. Plants were purchased from the Native Plant Nursery in Ann Arbor.

Maintenance plan: During the school year, students and staff handled watering of the young plants. From May – July, weeding, mulching and additional planting is being carried out by SOCWA volunteers with materials support through Southfield Public Schools, but will soon be handled completely by students and neighborhood volunteers.

Special features and benefits: The 2nd grade class has a door opening onto the garden – providing an excellent education opportunity. Even with very small plants, the garden was a place of learning and discovery for young students, especially special needs students.
Southfield, Eisenhower School Rain Garden, Pre-construction

Southfield, Eisenhower School Rain Garden, Newly planted – May 2005

Fact sheet and photos provided by: Lillian Dean, Southeastern Oakland Co Water Authority

September 15, 2005