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Reclaim Your Rain in Peachtree Corners

When rain falls on undeveloped land, much of that water infiltrates into the ground. When that land is developed, the ground may have impervious surfaces such as roads, driveways, and buildings, preventing natural infiltration of rain and creating stormwater runoff. An excessive amount of stormwater runoff can impact surface water in two ways.

First, stormwater runoff can carry pollutants like motor oil, pesticides, and litter from our yards and roads into our streams.

Second, stormwater runoff produces a higher volume of water reaching streams and lakes than would naturally occur, which can lead to bank erosion and habitat destruction downstream.

There are many ways to address concerns associated with stormwater runoff, and the city of Peachtree Corners works every day to ensure high water quality of the city's streams and lakes.

One way residents can help with excessive stormwater runoff is to mimic nature and promote infiltration – specifically through use of a rain garden. Rain gardens are built in low spots in your yard where water naturally collects. This gives runoff from your property the time and soil type needed to soak in.

Many times, a rain garden can provide function for that low, wet corner of the yard that either goes unnoticed or drives you crazy because nothing will live there. Rain gardens thrive best with the use of native species plants, which are both drought and rain tolerant due to Georgia's naturally fluctuating climate.

By creating a rain garden, you can reclaim your rain! Peachtree Corners partners with the Gwinnett County Department of Water Resources (DWR) to administer the stormwater program in the city. And the county has some helpful information available about rain gardens. Visit the Gwinnett DWR website for tips on design, placement, and plant selection for your rain garden:

<https://www.gwinnettcountry.com/portal/gwinnett/Departments/PublicUtilities/StormwaterManagement/PublicEducation/RainGardens>.

Taking a few simple steps to reclaim your rain can improve your landscape, save money, and help keep Peachtree Corners' waterways clean and safe. For questions about rain gardens, visit the link above, or contact the Gwinnett County Extension Service at 678-377-4010, or by email at extensionservice@gwinnettcountry.com.