

What is a bioretention area?

Bioretention areas are designed to reduce flooding and remove pollutants from stormwater runoff by using a combination of soil and plants. They are ideal for median strips, parking lot islands, and swales.

Why do you need bioretention areas in your community?

In developed areas, hard surfaces, such as rooftops, driveways and roads, decrease the ability for water to infiltrate into the ground. This contributes to erosion, polluted waterways and flooding, especially as storms become more frequent and more intense. ***One solution to reduce flooding and keep pollutants out of the water is to install a bioretention area.***

What are the benefits of installing bioretention areas in your community?

- Alleviate problems associated with flooding and drainage
- Keep water clean by filtering out pollutants before they enter local waterways
- Enhance the beauty of your community
- Provide habitat and food for wildlife
- Recharge the ground water supply

A properly installed and regularly inspected bioretention area requires minimal maintenance.

- Regular removal of debris
- Inspect area for erosion and/or excessive sediment deposits
- Weed and water plants
- Remove dead plants and litter

What are the benefits of using native plants in your bioretention area?

- Attract native wildlife
- Reduce soil erosion
- Require less fertilizer and water
- Promote native biodiversity
- Thrive under natural conditions
- Less maintenance

Available Resources

Contact your County Soil and Water Conservation District
<http://www.agri.ohio.gov/divs/SWC/>

Northeast Ohio Storm Water Training Council
<http://www.neohiostormwater.com/>



For more native plant selections and sources
Lake Erie Allegheny Partnership
<http://www.leapbio.org>



Funding generously provided by Ohio EPA



BIORETENTION AREAS



Cardinal Flower

Lobelia cardinalis

Photo credit: Forest Buchanan

Protecting our water one community at a time



Bayberry

Morella pensylvanica
Photo credit: Ann McCulloh



Black Gum

Nyssa sylvatica
Photo credit: Bill Hendricks



Winterberry

Ilex verticillata
Photo credit: Ann McCulloh

**The following three (3)
plants are salt tolerant:**

1. Bayberry
2. Black Gum
3. Winterberry



Little Bluestem

Schizachyrium scoparium
Photo credit: Bill Hendricks



Buttonbush

Cephalanthus occidentalis
Photo credit: Ann McCulloh



Swamp Milkweed

Asclepias incarnata
Photo credit: Judy Semroc

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Recommended
Native Plants for your
Bioretention Areas



Purple Coneflower

Echinacea purpurea
Photo credit: Judy Semroc



Bee Balm

Monarda didyma
Photo credit: Ann McCulloh



Blazing Star

Liatris spicata
Photo credit: Judy Semroc