

Raingarden Site Selection Worksheet

In this activity you and your team will be working together along with 5th graders at an elementary school to determine the best place to build a raingarden. 5th graders have mapped their schoolyard and have maps available for you to use. You will need to contact a teacher to secure the map. *If the school has a raingarden you can evaluate the placement of the raingarden or determine an additional location on the school grounds that would work for a raingarden.*

Maps Available for Use:

- **Elementary Elevation Map** shows topography and elevation data in color so you can determine ground slope and water flow: <http://www.johnadamsmms.new.rschoolday.com/page/3986>
- **Elementary Stormdrain Map** shows Rochester Public Works catch basins (where water enters the system), storm pipes, outfalls (where water exists the system), and the flow of water (by gravity): <http://www.johnadamsmms.new.rschoolday.com/page/3947>
- **Elementary Satellite Map of School** shows an overhead picture of the schoolyard and buildings: <http://www.johnadamsmms.new.rschoolday.com/page/3947>
- **5th Grade Student Created Map** need to be requested from a 5th grade elementary teacher/classroom.
- **Google Earth** will allow for further analysis of the school site.

Using these maps you will try and determine the following:

1. Which impervious surfaces contribute to water runoff and in what direction this runoff travels.
2. Downspout locations and the direction of water flowing from them.
3. Pinch points in which water converges in a low spot or ditch. In other words, where does the water naturally want to run to?

With this information, your team can determine the best location to install a raingarden that will capture this water and slow it down, filter it and allow it to infiltrate the soil.

Once you have picked a possible raingarden site/s you will make note of it on the 5th grade elementary map and send it back to them to start construction of the raingarden. Make sure to write your names under your site recommendations. Keep in touch with your elementary contacts and maybe you will be able to help build their raingarden.

