

# WATER CONSERVATION

## It's the right thing to do!

Water conservation is not only the right thing to do, it can also save you money! There are many ways you can help conserve water including the installation of a rain barrel and/or a rain garden!

Chattahoochee RIVERKEEPER® offers rain barrel workshops for homeowners, schools and businesses. The hour-long workshop includes an enhanced PowerPoint presentation titled *Tapped Out, The Drying Up of Atlanta* that examines the causes of the ongoing water challenges in the Chattahoochee River Watershed and offers practical solutions.



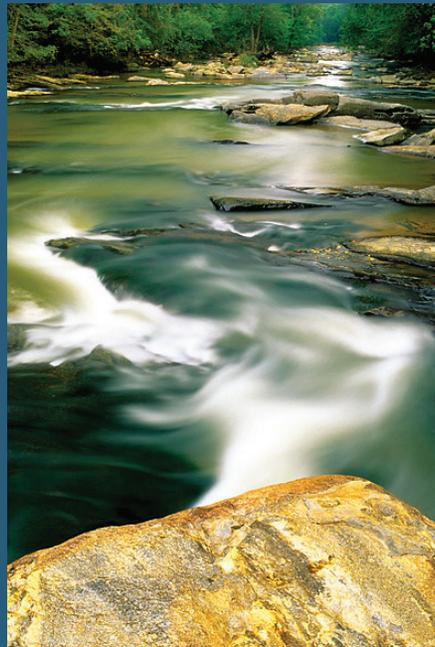
The workshop also gives participants a step-by-step explanation of the rain barrel and its installation. Each participant leaves with a rain barrel, ready to install. The workshop can be tailored to both audience and location.

Chattahoochee RIVERKEEPER® uses any fees collected at the workshops to cover program expenses. We appreciate grant support from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Coca-Cola and others.



*Keeping Watch Over Our Waters*

Chattahoochee RIVERKEEPER® is a non-profit environmental advocacy group working to preserve and protect the Chattahoochee River and its tributaries for the people and wildlife that depend on it.



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*Keeping Watch Over Our Waters*

# RAIN barrel+ gardens



# What is a rain barrel?

A rain barrel is a system that collects and stores rain water from your roof that would otherwise be lost in runoff. Our rain barrels are composed of 60 gallon repurposed drums. They are inexpensive and easy to install next to any residential gutter downspout. Select a roof area that yields maximum rain collection, considering proximity to plants. Raise barrel off ground for easy delivery and access!



## Directions for Rain Recycle Rain Barrel Kit and Flexfit diverter. To see an installation video visit [www.chattahoochee.org](http://www.chattahoochee.org).

1. Drill hole 4" from drum bottom with 1/2" drill bit. Attach spigot by screwing into rubber fitting at bottom of drum.
2. Place rain barrel in the desired location. Placement should be level, off the ground, and on a strong stable material.
3. Drill 2 1/8" hole in gutter and 1 1/2" fill hole in barrel and insert fitting. Fill hole and downspout hole must be level.
4. Install the diverter.



## Now you're ready for rain!

# Rain barrels save water and money!

- A rain barrel saves the average homeowner about 1300 gallons of water during peak summer months because a 1200 sq. ft. roof yields 700 gallons of water per inch of rain!
- Gardens prefer rain barrel water which is free of chlorine, lime and calcium.
- Installation is easy. There is no need to cut off your downspout. There are no problems with mosquitoes, and no overflows because the diverter "back flushes" when drum is full, stopping the drum from overflowing.

# What is a rain garden?

Rain gardens are natural and beautiful landscape features which require less maintenance, chemicals, and watering than lawns and help to reduce local flooding. They capture rain runoff from hard surfaces like roofs and driveways and allow the rainwater to seep slowly into the ground reducing erosion and helping to preserve streams, lakes, and rivers by filtering pollutants including oil, heavy metals, fertilizers, pesticides, and other chemicals that are carried with rainwater.



## Installing a rain garden:

1. Locate a site in a natural landscape depression.
2. Lay out boundaries and dig with deepest portions about 8-10 inches. Use removed soil to create a berm on the downhill side.
3. Mix organic matter into soil by adding 2-4 inches of compost over the area and mixing with existing soil.
4. Shallow swale or corrugated drain pipe should be set up to carry the water from the roof downspout to the rain garden. An overflow path should be set up as well.
5. Establish a border along the upper edge of the rain garden and established berm to slow rainwater and stabilize garden borders.
6. Plant hardy, drought and wet tolerant plants, and cover with 3" layer of mulch.

# Rain gardens prevent erosion and flooding!

- A rain garden receives runoff water from roofs or other impervious (hard) surfaces such as driveways.
- The rain garden holds the water on the landscape so that it can be taken in by plants and soak into the ground instead of flowing into the street and down into a storm drain or drainage ditch.

