

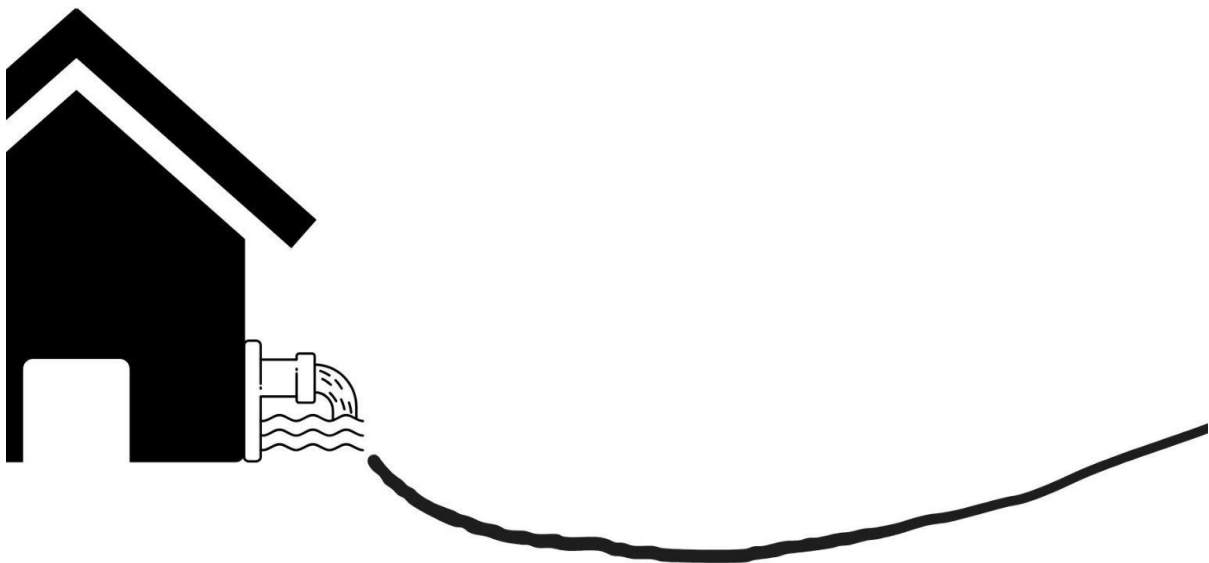
Water Justice Activity Pages

These activities help kids explore how rain moves through neighborhoods, where flooding happens, and how plants and rain gardens can help protect local water systems. Through games, observations, art, and hands-on learning, young community water observers can discover ways to care for the environment and help keep water clean.

The Perfect Place for a Rain Garden: Design your own rain garden by filling the space with flowers, grasses, and plants that help soak up stormwater.

The Perfect Place for a Rain Garden

Low spots in your yard are a great place for a rain garden! Planting native Louisiana flowers and grasses helps soak up stormwater before it floods streets and drains. Native plants are also adapted to Louisiana's heat and heavy rains, making them strong, low-maintenance choices for your yard or school garden.



Where Does Water Go?: Follow the path of rainwater to see where it flows, soaks in, or causes flooding.



Would Water Soak In or Run Off?: Predict which surfaces absorb water and which create runoff after rain.

Would Water Soak in or Run off?

When rain falls, the ground can either soak the water in or create runoff. In New Orleans, stormwater runoff eventually flows into Lake Pontchartrain, carrying trash, oil, chemicals, and pollution with it. Some surfaces help slow down flooding by allowing rainwater to soak into the ground instead of overwhelming drains and waterways. Let’s explore which materials help keep our communities and water systems healthy and safe during heavy rain! Fill out the chart with your predictions.

Materials	Run Off	Soak In
Garden Soil		
Clay		
Mulch		
Gravel		

Mix It Up: Water Word Challenge: Unscramble water and weather words while learning about flooding, stormwater, and native plants

Mix It Up: Water Word Challenge

Unscramble each word below. These are all important words we use when we talk about water, flooding, and how we take care of our environment.

TGETUR

WPSTUONDO

MELBEPRAE

LMERIMEALEB

IRNA RALRBLE

TEVNAI NALSPT

SONEIRO

Switchgrass is a native Louisiana grass that absorbs stormwater and reduces flooding, with roots growing 6-10 feet deep.

Water Tracking in Your Neighborhood: Observe puddles, drains, plants, and runoff to become a neighborhood water scientist.

Water Tracking in your Neighborhood

After a heavy rain use this series of questions to document how water moves or doesn't move in your neighborhood by observing the nearest drain or canal. Acting as a citizen scientist in your community can help track important data and advocate for green infrastructure near you!

Date:

Observation Location:

Time of Rain:

How deep is the standing water? Only measure areas that are safe to access.

How long did it rain for?

Is there trash in the water?

Is there plant life in the area? Describe it

What did you smell after the rain?

Draw a picture of what you see

Rain Garden Plants — Meet native plants that help absorb water, support pollinators, and protect the soil.

FORGET-ME-KNOTS

Tiny blue flowers, perfect for ground cover.



BUTTONBUSH

Able to grow roots underwater.



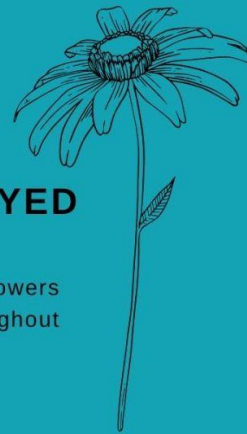
IRIS

Thick roots that help trap dirt and pollutants.



YARROW

Vibrant yellow flowers that bloom throughout the summer



BLACK-EYED SUSANS

Vibrant yellow flowers that bloom throughout the Summer



SWITCHGRASS

Roots that can grow over ten feet long.



SWAMP SUNFLOWERS

Grows bright yellow flowers into the Fall.