Rain Gardens: A natural solution to stormwater pollution

What is a Rain Garden?
A rain garden is a planted, shallow depression that captures, absorbs, and filters stormwater runoff from roofs, driveways, walkways, and roads. Rain gardens are designed to hold water for soil and plants to trap, absorb, and filter out pollutants such as fertilizers, pesticides, oil, grease, and sediment while recharging our groundwater supply.

Rain Garden Benefits:
* Naturally reduce pollution entering our local waterways
* Provide important habitat for native birds and butterflies
* Reduce flooding potential
* Recharge groundwater

Will a Rain Garden Work on my Property?
Rain gardens can be planted in yards, parks, schools, and commercial properties. Here are some helpful tips to help you get started!

Location
Rain gardens are often located at the end of a rain gutter or down spout as a buffer between the lawn and street

Size & Depth
A typical rain garden is about 5-10% of the size of the surface area that generates the stormwater runoff (roof, driveway, etc) and between 4-8 inches deep depending on the amount of stormwater runoff that is generated

Soil
A good soil mix for a rain garden is 60% sand, 20% compost and 20% topsoil

Plant Choices
Choose native plants based on need for light and moisture. Native plants live longer and are more tolerant of local weather and soil conditions

Impervious surfaces like walkways, roads, and driveways prevent water stormwater from soaking into the soil. Naturalizing your property by reducing lawn area, creating natural buffers, and planting native vegetation are ways you can help!

For more information about the Peconic Estuary Program please visit www.peconicestuary.org