

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

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!

1 Rain and stormwater collect in the garden

2 Plants absorb water, use nutrients and trap sediment

3 Water filters through the soil entering the groundwater

4 Rain barrels collect and store water from rooftops, keeping the garden green when there is

Project Partners

- * Group for the East End
- * New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission



*Funding for this project was provided by the Peconic Estuary Program



Peconic Estuary Program



The Peconic Estuary Program (PEP) is an innovative partnership of local, state, and federal governments, citizen and environmental groups, businesses and industries, and academic institutions that aim to protect and restore habitat diversity, water quality, and ecological communities of the Peconic Estuary and its watershed.

Changes in land use and increasing pressures on natural resources have created areas of degraded water quality, disturbed habitat, harmed wildlife and may have stimulated harmful algal blooms.

Some of PEP's priority management topics include:

- * Brown tide
- * Nutrients (mainly nitrogen)
- * Habitat & living resources
- * Pathogens
- * Toxic pollutants
- * Critical land protection

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

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