

RAIN GARDEN RESOURCES

Visit these websites for more information about rain gardens:

- www.nemo.uconn.edu/raingardens/
- www.raingardennetwork.com/
- www.epa.gov/soakuptherain/rain-gardens
- www.dnr.wi.gov/topic/Stormwater/raingarden/
- www.lowimpactdevelopment.org



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WHO WE ARE

The Eastern Connecticut Conservation District, Inc. (ECCD) is a not-for-profit natural resource conservation organization. ECCD offers technical and educational services to the towns of eastern Connecticut. ECCD assists citizens and towns in making sound natural resource decisions, and promotes sustainable use of natural resources. ECCD develops programs that solve natural resource problems and provides educational opportunities to the public about the interrelationship between human activities and the natural environment.



Norwich: 238 West Town Street
Norwich, CT 06360
860-887-4163, ext. 400

Brooklyn: 139 Wolf Den Rd
Brooklyn, CT 06234
860-774-9600

RAIN GARDENS

A Low Impact Development Solution to Stormwater Management



**EASTERN CONNECTICUT
CONSERVATION
DISTRICT**

WHY SHOULD YOU PLANT A RAIN GARDEN?

When you plant a rain garden, you help make the water in your neighborhood cleaner.

Each time it rains, rainwater flows over and through the ground, picking up contaminants that are left by our everyday activities – like lawn fertilizers and pesticides; oil, gas and heavy metals from our vehicles; viruses and bacteria in animal droppings; even sediment. Without intervention, these contaminants eventually find their way into nearby ponds and streams, where they can harm wildlife and make the water unsafe for drinking and swimming.

By planting a rain garden, you catch rainwater from areas in your yard where it can't soak in, like roofs, decks and driveways, and send it to your rain garden, where it can soak in. By soaking rainwater into the soil, you protect the environment by keeping polluted rainwater out of our ponds and streams – every time it rains!



Photo Credit - Judy Rondeau 2008

How to Design and Install a Rain Garden:

1. Choose a location where water comes out of a gutter or directly off of an impervious surface, such as a deck, driveway or sidewalk.
2. Measure the area of the roof, deck or driveway that the water is draining from. Then divide that area by 6 to determine how big your rain garden should be.
3. Test the soil to make sure rain water will soak in. Dig a small hole about 10-12 inches deep and fill it with water. The water should drain out within 24 hours. If it does not, you will want to select a different location.
4. Mark out the area with marking paint or a hose, and dig down into the ground about 8-10 inches, leaving the edges sloping towards the middle to create a shallow bowl shape.
5. Add compost or fertilizer to the bottom of the rain garden to help your plants grow.
6. Choose a variety of plants to go in the rain garden, including plants that will add interest throughout the seasons. Plants that are native to your area will require minimal attention once they are established and will attract pollinators and birds. Select plants that can tolerate temporary wet conditions or "wet feet" for the middle (deepest spot) of the rain garden.
7. Add 2-3 inches of mulch around the plants to suppress weeds and help protect the rain garden from erosion.
8. Water generously every few days until the plants are established.

Helpful Hint:

Avoid underground utilities – contact **Call Before You Dig** at 1-800-922-4455 or online at www.cbyd.com to locate underground utilities.