Interested in learning more about Rain Gardens?

NEMO

http://nemo.uconn.edu/raingardens/

NEMO is part of the Center for Land Use Education and Research (CLEAR) and the Department of Extension at the University of Connecticut College of Agricultural and Natural Resources

They maintain an informative website about rain gardens including how to create and maintain one of your own. They have developed a smart phone app for designing, installing, and maintain a rain garden. The app is called 'Rain Garden' and is available for both Android and IOS based phones.

UCONN **Rain Garden App**
A Mobile App for designing, installing, and maintaining a Rain Garden

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Southwest Conservation District

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Parsons Building Rain Garden

A project by the City of Milford in concert with CT DEEP and the Southwest Conservation District.

"Thousands have lived without love, not one without water."

- W. H. Auden

Why build a Rain Garden?

As seen in these pictures, the corner of the Parsons building facing West main and West River Streets had serious issues concerning water run off. The original drainage system was ineffective and the natural slope of the land caused large amounts of water to pond up outside one of the entrances to the building during rain events.

Not only is standing water a nuisance and potential safety hazard, it can also compromise the structural integrity of the building's foundation. Heavy flows from over-burdened down spouts were eroding the soil and carrying it away into nearby storm drains contributing to the filling of the Wepaqaug River with sediment.

What is a Rain Garden?

A rain garden is a designed depression in a landscape typically planted with perennials and shrubs. The main purpose of a rain garden is to collect water runoff and allow it to soak into the soil over time while also filtering out pollutants. This helps prevent ponding on the landscape or run off carrying pollutants and sediment into local waterways.

Benefits of a Rain Garden?

- Reduces sediment and pollutant input from reaching nearby waterways and eventually the Long Island Sound.
- Reduces or eliminates flooding through improved soil infiltration.
- Reduces potential habitat for mosquito larvae.
- The plants in the rain garden act as a natural filter for pollutants through processes such as absorption, ion exchange, and decomposition.
- Reduces the strain on local storm water treatment systems during rain events.
- Creates wildlife habitat for native species.
- Creates a dynamic and aesthetically pleasing focal point in the area.