

The Pembroke Stormwater Times

Spring 2020



THE BENEFITS OF RAIN GARDENS

Spring has sprung and with it comes blooming flowers and also runoff. Luckily there's a way to create a mutually beneficial relationship between the two. Rain gardens provide so many benefits to plant, animal, and human life.

A rain garden is a garden planted in a swale or depression, which is designed to capture and treat stormwater. Stormwater is diverted to the rain garden where moisture-tolerant plants help to filter sediments and pollutants before the water is eventually absorbed back into the ground to recharge the water table.

Rain gardens help reduce the amount of water entering rivers and streams untreated, which may travel across pavement and pick up more pollutants along the way, like oil and deicing chemicals.

Depending on what plants you choose to incorporate into your rain garden, not only will they beautify your property, they can provide habitat and food for bees and butterflies. Continue reading for tips on to how to build your own rain garden, what plants to include, and how to maintain it.



Photo Credit: MA Watershed Coalition

MUNICIPAL UPDATE

Updates to Town ordinances and land use regulations are in progress in order to meet the stormwater standards mandated by the EPA. We anticipate Planning Board and Board of Selectmen public hearings on these items to take place later this year, so stayed tuned.

In the meantime, Department of Public Works employees are participating in training programs to learn best management practices for their operations, which will protect our important community water resources.

We will continue to provide information to the public on these ongoing efforts. For more information, check out our website:

www.ThinkBlueSuncook.org

Rain Garden Tips

Where to locate you garden?

- Position your rain garden to catch water runoff from surfaces such as your **roof, driveway, or walkway**.
- Install your rain garden to be about 6-8 inches deep. However, it should **not** be located in a low spot or wetland, which can cause even more water issues from **slow infiltration** and **ponding**.
- Locate your rain garden at least **10 feet** from your **foundation** to prevent any water from entering into your basement.
- Avoid locating your rain garden over your **septic system** or **well**.

Local Water Tolerant Plants

Marginal Wood Fern	Butterfly Milkweed
Marsh Marigold	Indian Grass
Common Winterberry	New England Aster
Switch Grass or Panic Grass	Northern Lady Fern
High/Lowbush Blueberry	Little Bluestem
Red Chokeberry	Cinnamon Fern



Lowbush Blueberry. Photo by Gardening Know How



Butterfly Milkweed. Photo by Long Island Natives

Maintaining Your Rain Garden

- Inspect for **erosion** or built up **sediment** and repair as necessary.
- Remove **weeds** and **invasive species**.
- Choose **organic** fertilizers and lawn treatments.

More Resources:

UCONN NEMO Rain Garden App <https://nemo.uconn.edu/raingardens/index.htm>

EPA Soak Up the Rain <https://www.epa.gov/soakuptherain/soak-rain-rain-gardens>

This flyer is intended for educational purposes as part of Pembroke's Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) requirements. Check out more at www.thinkbluesuncook.org.



Town of Pembroke

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