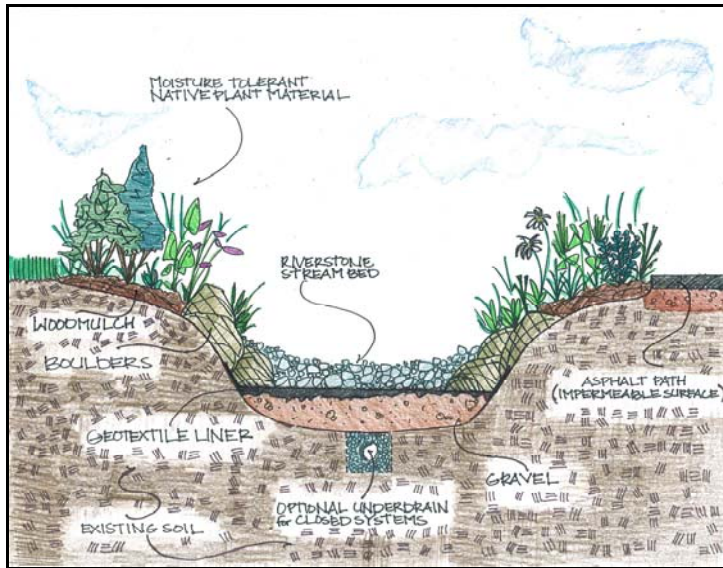


What is a Rain Garden? – Rain gardens are planted to reduce storm water runoff by absorbing water into the ground. They are shallow depressions, sometimes underlain with a porous soil mix and/or a perforated pipe, and planted with native vegetation. Rain gardens collect the water that runs over roads,

parking lots, lawns and roofs during a storm; this water may carry with it the oils, grit, nutrients, and other pollutants that build up on these surfaces. This is beneficial to the environment because the vegetation and soil in rain gardens help to filter such pollutants. Intercepting this water before it gets into our waterways is a challenge. Rain gardens are a tool that homeowners and others can use to collect and treat runoff before it harms the environment. As an added benefit, rain gardens provide prime bird and butterfly habitat.



Rain Garden Design – The Native Plant Center rain garden features two shallow, “stream” beds lined with gravel and rounded

river stones. They are designed to carry storm water runoff from the cottage’s downspouts to the first of two infiltration gardens. Excess water from the first garden then travels down a longer rock-lined stream bed, to a second bowl-shaped garden. To provide aesthetic appeal and improve its filtration capabilities, moisture-tolerant, native plants were selected to fill the garden areas.

Intercepting Stormwater Runoff– Unfortunately, impermeable surfaces restrict water from naturally soaking into the ground, and instead large quantities of storm water runoff enter sewer systems and water bodies. Rain gardens eliminate this trend by intercepting the runoff, filtering pollution, decreasing erosion, and reducing the overall volume of flood water. The Native Plant Center rain garden provides a scenic and functioning place that benefits the environment and enhances the area’s beauty.

For additional information on rain gardens and plants:
www.bbg.org
www.uri.edu/ce/healthylandscapes/raingarden
www.sustainability.uconn.edu/pdf/raingardenbroch.pdf
www.native-raingarden.com/index
www.rainkc.com/

- Native Plant Ideas For Rain Gardens
- Blue Flag Iris (*Iris versicolor*)
 - Cardinal Flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*)
 - Joe-Pye Weed (*Eupatorium fistulosum*)
 - Swamp Milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*)
 - New York Aster (*Aster novae-belgii*)
 - Boneset (*Eupatorium perfoliatum*)
 - Sensitive Fern (*Onoclea sensibilis*)
 - Cinnamon Fern (*Osmunda cinnamomea*)
 - Winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*)
 - Red Twig Dogwood (*Cornus stolonifera*)
 - Red Chokeberry (*Aronia Arbutifolia*)
 - Spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*)
 - Summersweet (*Clethra alnifolia*)
 - Switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum*)
 - Awl-Fruited Sedge (*Carex stipata*)
 - Black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia birta*)
 - Shadbush (*Amelanchier canadensis*)