Rain Gardens Have Many Benefits

What is a Rain Garden?

A rain garden, like this one at the Wilton Playshop, is a shallow depression vegetated with native grasses and plants that collects stormwater runoff from downspouts, driveways and roads. The rain garden holds the water on the landscape so that it can be taken in by plants and soak into the ground instead of flowing into a street and down a storm drain. The plants and soil trap, absorb and filter the pollutants found in stormwater runoff such as fertilizers, pesticides, oil, grease and metals. This allows clean water to slowly soak back into the ground recharging groundwater supplies.

Benefits of a Rain Garden

- Reduce the amount of polluted stormwater runoff reaching our rivers
- Filter pollutants such as oil, fertilizers, salt, pesticides, metals and bacteria out of stormwater runoff
- Promote infiltration of water back into the ground to recharge
- Reduce local flooding potential
- Prevent stream bank erosion
- Conserve water
- Create diverse habitat for birds and butterflies
- Reduce landscape maintenance (time, money)
- Increase property value

Depth

A typical rain garden is between 4-8 inches deep. This depth, proportionate to the surface area being drained, helps ensure that water soaks back into the ground instead of ponding.

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!

Soil

A good soil mix for a rain garden is 60% sand, 20% compost and 20% topsoil.

Size

A rain garden is typically 5-10% the size of the impervious surface *(ex. rooftop, driveway, walkway)* that generates stormwater runoff.

Location

Rain gardens are often located at the end of a roof gutter or drain spout as a buffer between the lawn and the street.

Rain Garden App

A Mobile App for Designing, Installing and Maintaining a Rain Garden
Scan Below for More Information

UCONN

For More Information Visit:

http://nemo.uconn.edu/raingardens

Norwalk River Watershed Initiative — It's our watershed -- let's take care of it!

Wilton Garden Club

NEMO — Center for Land Use Education & Research

Wilton Congregational Church — Lighting the Way

NRWA — Norwalk River Watershed Association Inc.