

FRIENDS OF NORTHERN LAKE CHAMPLAIN

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RAIN GARDENS for CLEANER WATERS

What is a Rain Garden?

How do to design, install and maintain a Rain Garden

A rain garden is a bowl-shaped garden designed to capture and absorb rainfall and snowmelt (collectively referred to as “stormwater”). When stormwater runs off impervious surfaces such as parking lots, roofs, compacted soils, and roads, it accumulates pollutants and delivers them to a nearby lake or river either directly or via a storm drain.

Stormwater pollutants typically include sediment; nutrients (nitrogen and phosphorus); bacteria from animal waste; and oil, grease, and heavy metals from cars. Excess stormwater also causes increased flooding, which erodes stream banks resulting in additional problems.

However, if captured by a rain garden, stormwater soaks into the ground and recharges the groundwater at a rate 30% greater than that of a typical lawn. Through allowing stormwater to infiltrate into the ground, rain gardens help to reduce the volume of stormwater runoff thus preventing excess nutrients, sediment, pollutants, and high stormwater flows from entering local waterways.

Ultimately, if we all work together to create landscape features that absorb stormwater, we can help preserve the waterways that make Vermont so beautiful.

The above description and complete information on how to design, install and maintain a rain garden can be found in The Vermont Rain Garden Manual, on the website of the Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District:

www.vacd.org/winooski/RGManual7.1.09FINAL.pdf

Or for more information, please contact Friends of Northern Lake Champlain, using the Contact Us page on our website:

www.northernlakechamplain.org/index.html