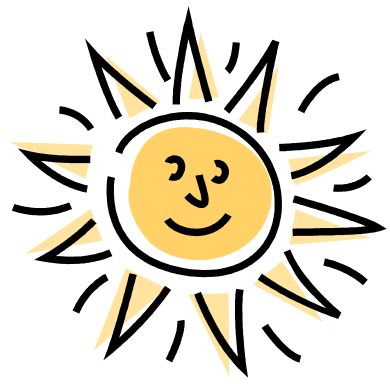


Saving For A Sunny Day



The Somerset Conservation District Rain Garden

Why Use A Rain Barrel?

Urban areas are covered with surfaces that are impervious to rain. Because water is unable to infiltrate gradually into the ground, rain water typically flows over these impervious surfaces quickly, picking up road and sidewalk pollutants and causing high levels of erosion as it flows. Rain barrels help reduce the negative effects of impervious surfaces by promoting infiltration of water into the water table and reducing surface runoff.

Benefits of Rain Barrels

- Free water supply that is great for watering plants and gardens, washing cars, or cleaning windows
- Reduces amount of water diverted to storm drains
- Reduces runoff and promotes groundwater infiltration
- Reduces erosion and non-point source pollution
- Directs overflow away from foundations



native plants absorb runoff and pollutants while attracting songbirds and butterflies

root zone aids in nutrient uptake, microbial activity, and infiltration

gravel bed (if needed)

ponding zone allows pollutants to settle and organic matter to accumulate

gutter

rock/vegetated swale or pipe

overflow structure (if needed)

prepared soil mixture (if needed):
50-60% sand
20-30% compost
20-30% topsoil

perforated pipe to outlet (if needed)

What Are The Benefits Of Rain Gardens?

- Provide storage for floodwater and help prevent ditches and sewers from being overwhelmed.
- Improved water quality by filtering pollutants from stormwater such as grass clippings, pesticides, fertilizers, gas, oil and other kinds of residue.
- Provide an excellent habitat for wildlife, especially when planted with native species.
- Beautify neighborhoods with minimal maintenance once the plants are established.

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