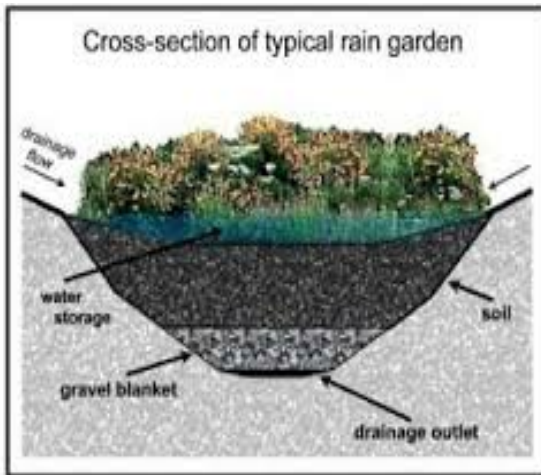


Quick Look:

- ❖ **Rain Gardens** - Positioned near paved surfaces or lawns, rain gardens consist of native plants that catch stormwater runoff.
- ❖ **Unique Benefits** – Rain gardens reduce stormwater runoff entering streams and ponds by catching the water in the gardens. The runoff that does enter the natural water sources is filtered by the plants and soil in the garden. Besides these stormwater benefits, rain gardens can also meet landscaping requirements while providing shade and aesthetic benefits when used in public areas.
- ❖ **Maintenance** – Some native plants are drought resistant and hardy, others are able to tolerate submersion/saturation. An established rain garden is often low maintenance by using both types of plants.



(Graphic - www.springtownconsulting.com)

Why use it?

When storm water is conveyed off site using curbs, gutters, and underground pipes, it sends pollutants downstream and creates erosive conditions and sediment loading to streams.

Green infrastructure uses vegetation and soil to manage rainwater on site. This approach is often more environmentally friendly and cost-effective.

Anyone can build a rain garden!

Any area of your yard that collects water can be made into a functional and beautiful rain garden. Consider building one as a weekend project at home, or plan one with your local school or community. You can find all the information you need online!

Suggested Websites

- www.mass.gov/eea/docs/eea/water/raingarden.pdf
- ag.umass.edu/landscape/fact-sheets/rain-gardens-way-to-improve-water-quality
- www.epa.gov/soakuptherain/soak-rain-rain-gardens
- www.commonwaters.org/about-massachusetts-watershed-coalition/what-we-do/green-towns/rain-gardens

QUABBIN RESERVOIR

Department of Conservation and Recreation
485 Ware Road,
Belchertown, MA 01007
413-323-7221
www.mass.gov/dcr/watershed



Quabbin Park and Reservoir

Winsor Dam Rain Garden



A Rain Garden at the Winsor Dam!

As part of an on-going effort to remove direct discharge from catch basins into the reservoir at Winsor Dam and protect water quality, the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) constructed a rain garden in 2013 between the Quabbin Administration Building and Winsor Dam.

Rain gardens, also known as Bioretention Gardens, are an example of green infrastructure, which uses vegetation and soil to manage stormwater runoff on site. Excess water is temporarily stored in a retention area, then slowly released through the ground. This approach is often environmentally friendly and cost-effective. A rain garden can reduce the stormwater runoff entering streams and ponds by catching the water in the gardens. The runoff that does enter the natural water sources is filtered by the soil and plants in the garden.



What is it?

A rain garden is a shallow, depressed garden planted with vegetation designed to absorb storm water or water runoff.

By collecting water that runs off from hard surfaces, such as roofs, driveways, sidewalks and other pavements, rain gardens help prevent storm water from running off directly into lakes and rivers or indirectly by way of storm drains. They help protect water quality by absorbing storm water and snowmelt that carry pollutants, sediment, grass clippings, and fertilizers.

Plants you will see in the Winsor Dam Rain Garden

Amelanchier lamarkii,
Serviceberry



Carex coparia,
Painted Broom
Sedge



Chelone glabra,
Turtlehead



Cornus alba,
Dogwood



Cornus florida,
Pink Dogwood



Kalmia latifolia,
Mountain
Laurel



Iris versicolor,
Blue Flag Iris



Juniperus dauvurica,
Parson's Juniper



Matteuccia struthiopteris,
Ostrich Fern



Osmunda regalis,
Royal Fern



Thuja occidentalis,
Emerald Green
Aborvitae



Vaccinium corymbosum,
Highbush
Blueberry

