

Introduction to Rain Gardens

Rain gardens are attractive landscape features that capture, hold, and soak in runoff from rain storms. They are designed for areas where rainwater habitually pools or water is deliberately channeled, and filter the water through the soil to remove pollutants.

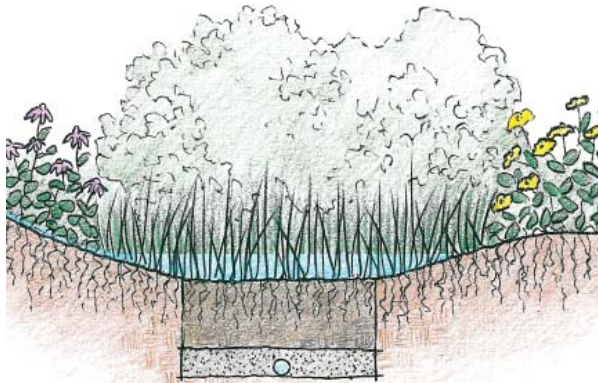
The Hopatcong State Park rain garden removes approximately 80 percent of the total suspended solids from the stormwater it captures, as well as a wide range of pollutants such as nitrogen, phosphorus, metals, and bacteria, to improve the water quality in Lake Hopatcong.

Capture

Rain Gardens collect runoff from nearby impervious surfaces

Clean

The plants and soil “digest” pollutants to keep them out of Lake Hopatcong



Infiltrate

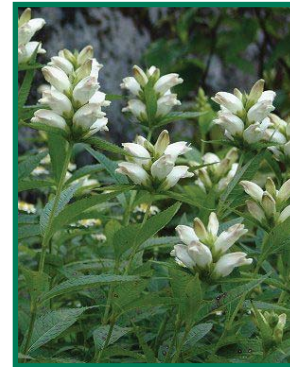
Clean water percolates into the soil to recharge the groundwater that flows to Lake Hopatcong



Orange Coneflower - *Rudbeckia fulgida*



Blue Verbena
Verbena hastata



White Turtlehead
Chelone glabra



Scarlet Beebalm - *Monarda didyma*

Creating your own Rain Garden to collect runoff from a downspout, driveway, or other paved areas is easy and native plants are perfect for the job!

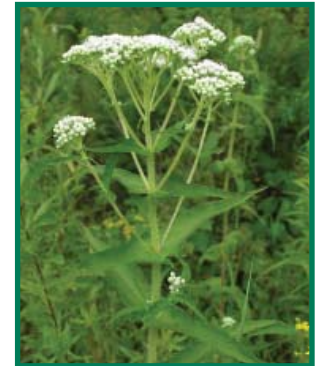
The State Park Rain Garden features:



New York Aster - *Symphiotrichum novi-belgii*



Mountain Mint
Pycnanthemum muticum



Boneset
Eupatorium perfoliatum



Swamp Milkweed
Asclepias incarnata



Blueflag Iris
Iris versicolor

The Hopatecong State Park Stormwater Management Best Management Practice (BMP)

The Hopatecong State Park rain garden is designed to collect stormwater runoff from the adjacent parking lot and building.

Stormwater enters the rain garden through an opening in the parking lot curb, the buildings gutters, and overland flow. The stormwater is infiltrated through a special soil mix in the bottom of the rain garden; drainage is facilitated by a perforated underdrain pipe.

To prevent the rain garden from overflowing in large rain events, a riser pipe allows stormwater to exit the basin quickly to be conveyed downstream to the existing underground stormwater sewer system.



Before



After

Native Plants for Rain Gardens

Rain gardens planted with native plants are low maintenance, drought tolerant and environmentally friendly. They beautify your property and your neighborhood.

Native plants eliminate the need for fertilizer, a common source of pollution to Lake Hopatecong. They are deep-rooted to both help infiltrate water and protect plants during drought. Native plants also provide important habitat to native songbirds, insects, and other fauna.

The plants used in this rain garden are especially well suited to variable moisture conditions, making them ideal for rain gardens.

For more information about creating your own rain garden, check out Rutgers University's online resources: http://water.rutgers.edu/Rain_Gardens/RGWebsite/raingardens.html

or

Contact the Lake Hopatecong Foundation:

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The Hopatecong State Park Rain Garden Project Partners



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Rain Gardens

Protecting
the Water Quality of
Lake Hopatecong
through Sustainable
Stormwater Management

