

THE GALLOWAY TOWNSHIP RAIN GARDEN

A RAIN GARDEN is a garden which takes advantage of rainfall and storm water runoff in its design and plant selection. We have a beautiful demonstration rain garden on the Municipal Complex grounds in the front parking lot. This garden has been placed here to accomplish two important things: To help drain water away from the impervious area of the parking lot and to filter the water of impurities as it slowly drains through the soil and the specialized plants; enhancing water quality. A bonus third reason for the garden is that it contains native plants that provide habitat for wildlife.

The plants in the basin part of the garden are a variety of native wetlands plants with roots that help to absorb the water. The basin also contains several borings that are filled with sand and stone to help drain water past the clay layer of soil. Plants in this section of the garden include: Buttonbush, Sweet Pepperbush, Blue Flag Iris, Blue Mist Flower, Joe Pye Weed and Cardinal Flower.



The berm area surrounding the basin is planted with native vegetation that will tolerate extremely dry conditions. These plants include: Liatris, Black-eyed Susan, Purple Coneflower, Butterfly Weed, and Obedient Plant.

This garden was originally created through a partnership with Stockton College to demonstrate how parking lot runoff can be handled on-site. Two years ago, a local Boy Scout, Mike Bird, totally renovated the garden as his Eagle Scout project. The group of scouts that Mike organized weeded, added, moved and trimmed plants and installed signage and a bird house. Since that time, his mom, Sallie, has been the primary caretaker of the garden and has done a magnificent job. She heads up a Rain Garden Committee for Go Green Galloway, that consists of members of Go Green Galloway, the Southeastern Chapter of the Native Plant Society of NJ, and Community Garden participants.



The Galloway Township Municipal Complex Rain Garden was one of 3 local rain gardens that were featured during a recent RAIN GARDEN WORKSHOP led by local naturalist Jesse Connor and sponsored by Go Green Galloway and the Southeastern Chapter of the Native Plant Society of NJ. The other two gardens visited were a small garden at a private residence and one on the grounds of Stockton College.

The purpose of this workshop was to educate our residents about the need for such gardens when certain conditions exist. A rain garden will help to remediate water run-off from roofs, driveways and parking lots and draw water away from foundations. Attendees were given the tools to create a rain garden on their own property; including how to choose a site, construction of the garden, choices for native plants for both the basin and berm areas, and maintenance tips.



**For more information about rain gardens, contact
Barbara Fiedler, Galloway Office of Sustainability, at bfiedler@gtnj.org.**