

Summary How-To Create a Rain Garden:

- 1) Observe the project area:
Observe how rain water drain across or into the project area
- 2) Develop drawings of the project area: a plan or map. *Drawing enhance observations.*
For persons not comfortable with drawing
Print out Google Maps and photographs of the site – sketch into the image.
- 3) Calculate area of drainage (quantity of rainwater collecting)
Measure (or Estimate) Length \times Width = drainage area
Multiply Drainage Area \times 6" (or depth of your garden)
Water can drain from the rooftop, driveway, parking lot, neighbor's yard, compacted soil, deck, . . .
- 4) Select rain garden area (not necessarily the lowest point)
Near a driveway or snow plow? (woody plants or not?)
How much sunlight?
If the garden overflows, where excess water flow (or not)
- 5) Test Soil. Soil tests are free at the Ct Agricultural Stations.
- 6) Evaluate soil percolation rate
Dig a hole 1' x 1' x 6" deep. Fill with water.
If the water has not drained within 24 hours, adjust location of garden.
- 7) Select native plants, *especially if the property is adjacent to a riverway.*
Plants must be tolerant of both wet and dry conditions.
- 8) Amend soil if necessary. *Remember to call before you dig*
50% sand; 25% topsoil; 25% compost + leaf litter

Online References:

University of Connecticut Non-Point Education for Municipal Officials (NEMO)

This thorough ten page guide is available on-line:

http://www.nemo.uconn.edu/tools/publications/rain_garden_broch.pdf

Ct Department of Environmental Protection: 'What is a Rain Garden' guide:

http://www.ct.gov/dep/lib/dep/water/watershed_management/wm_plans/lid/what_is_a_rain_garden.pdf

New England Wildflower Society: *An essential resource for native plants.*

<http://www.newfs.org/>

Tree Benefits Calculator: *calculates tree value per tree species and size, based on stormwater mitigation, property enhancement, energy costs, air quality improvements and CO2 reductions.* See www.caseytrees.org
or <http://www.caseytrees.org/geographic/maps-tools/tree-benefits/index.php>

10000 Rain Gardens: www.rainkc.com