

Rain Gardens: Reuse Stormwater in Your Yard

Stormwater refers to rain and melted snow and ice. Stormwater runoff from your roof, driveway and other hard surfaces in your yard is typically directed towards the street and into the municipal storm drain system. This stormwater runoff, which has picked up harmful substances such as road salt, pet waste, heavy metals, pesticides, fertilizers and oils, ends up in local water bodies, where it can harm water quality and aquatic habitat. Meanwhile, water used for lawns and gardens is drawn from the local drinking water supply.

There are several ways that you can reduce runoff and better use stormwater in your yard while ensuring proper drainage. One relatively easy and attractive method is a rain garden. Find out how you can build a rain garden from the resources below.

Rain Garden resources:

- 💧 [How to Plant a Rain Garden](http://nricd.org/plantraingarden.htm), Northern Rhode Island Conservation District nricd.org/plantraingarden.htm
- 💧 [Rain Gardens](http://www.appliedeco.com/RainGarden.cfm), Applied Ecological Services, Inc. <http://www.appliedeco.com/RainGarden.cfm>
- 💧 [RainGardens](http://www.mass.gov/eea/docs/eea/water/raingarden.pdf), Massachusetts Energy and Environmental Affairs <http://www.mass.gov/eea/docs/eea/water/raingarden.pdf>
- 💧 [All About Rain Gardens](http://raingardennetwork.com/about.htm), Rain Garden Network raingardennetwork.com/about.htm
- 💧 [Rain Gardens - Using Spectacular Wetland Plantings to Reduce Runoff](http://www.bbg.org/gardening/article/rain_gardens), Brooklyn Botanical Gardens http://www.bbg.org/gardening/article/rain_gardens
- 💧 [Rain Gardens of West Michigan](http://www.raingardens.org/) www.raingardens.org/



For more information on Cambridge's Stormwater Management Program visit: www.cambridgema.gov/TheWorks/ourservices/stormwatermanagement.aspx or contact Catherine Daly Woodbury at Cambridge DPW at 617.349.4818