

# Protect the environment.

Because sometimes, all you want is a glass of water. A nice, pure, healthy glass of water. For yourself, your family and your neighbors.

And one way you can help make it happen is easy—plant a Rain Garden. It's more than just lovely flowers and plants. It's a natural way to replenish the local water supply, control flooding and filter stormwater runoff before it can pollute local waterways.

Save the Sound can help. With advice, guidance, and for a limited time, up to \$1,500 in incentives.

## Earn an incentive worth up to \$1,500.

For more information about  
Rain Gardens and  
the \$1,500 incentive,  
call 1-203-787-0646, ext. 127  
or email  
[ccryder@savethesound.org](mailto:ccryder@savethesound.org)



This program is administered by  
Save the Sound, a program of Connecticut  
Fund for the Environment

[www.ReduceRunoff.org](http://www.ReduceRunoff.org)



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Cover photo credit: Kara Bonsack of UConn CLEAR

# Build a Rain Garden

*A Smart Way to Reduce Harmful Effects  
of Stormwater Runoff*



**Homeowners: Sign up now and  
earn an incentive worth up to  
\$1,500. See inside!**

[www.ReduceRunoff.org](http://www.ReduceRunoff.org)

## What is a Rain Garden?

When it rains, water runs off your roof and driveway, and local roads and parking lots—hard surfaces where it picks up all kinds of pollution. Then, the contaminated water flows into local waterways. A Rain Garden is specially designed to capture and clean runoff before it enters the water supply—and looks like any other garden.



Illustration Credit: Susan Schadt

## How can a Rain Garden help the environment?

Many people take clean water for granted. But flooding and pollution from stormwater runoff are increasing problems. Local storm sewers and waterways are overwhelmed by the amount of runoff from recent storms. Harmful bacteria can close swimming areas and beaches. Fertilizers in runoff can cause algae blooms in waterways, which suffocate and kill fish. When stormwater rushes off hard surfaces and into nearby streams it is then unavailable to replenish our groundwater and drinking water wells. A Rain Garden is a cost-efficient way to capture, clean, and reduce harmful runoff.

- Reduces pollutants that wash into local streams, the Quinnipiac River, and Long Island Sound
- Recharges groundwater and helps protect your drinking water supply
- Helps to control flooding and drainage problems

Photo: Kierran Broatch



Photo: UConn CLEAR

## What does a Rain Garden look like?

A Rain Garden is lush, colorful and eye-catching—just like any other garden. The plants that do best can tolerate wet conditions, of course, but also thrive when it's very dry. In other words: Connecticut native plants! So you have many familiar, easy-to-find choices.

## Is a Rain Garden easy to create?

Yes! It's as easy to build as any other garden with a little guidance. A step-by-step "how to" website at [www.ReduceRunoff.org](http://www.ReduceRunoff.org) will show you how to choose a suitable site, pick the right plants, and construct the rain garden.

### **If I want to build a Rain Garden, how can Save the Sound help?**

Save the Sound has grant money exclusively for homeowners in the Quinnipiac River area, with a first priority for certain parts of Southington, and secondarily in Plainville, Meriden and Wallingford. We'll guide you through the process, provide expert advice and best of all, give you an incentive worth up to \$1,500 for helping us to help your community.

[www.ReduceRunoff.org](http://www.ReduceRunoff.org)

## Anything else I need to know?

Check out these *Frequently Asked Questions*, or contact us anytime.

### **With all that water, will it attract mosquitoes?**

No. A Rain Garden is not a pond. It holds water for a short time after it rains—not nearly enough time for mosquitoes to lay and hatch eggs.

### **Is a Rain Garden difficult to maintain?**

Not at all. The recommended plants are available at local nurseries. And you maintain them just like any other plants in your yard.

### **Is it expensive?**

No. Creating a Rain Garden is just like planting any other area in our yard—especially with our \$1,500 incentive!

### **How can a Rain Garden help restore drinking water?**

Millions and millions of gallons of stormwater runoff flow from our rooftops and driveways into our streets and are forced into our streams and the Quinnipiac River. Rain Gardens can capture and filter stormwater, allowing clean water to soak into your soil and restore groundwater used in our drinking water wells.

### **How can I get the \$1,500 incentive?**

Respond now! They are only for residents in particular areas of Southington, Plainville, Meriden and Wallingford.

Contact Chris Cryder at 203-787-0646, ext. 127 or via email at [ccryder@savethesound.org](mailto:ccryder@savethesound.org). We're looking forward to helping you beautify your property—while you help the environment.



Photo: Kierran Broatch