

# Press Release



SCHUYLER COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

**Mailing Address:**

PO Box 326 Montour Falls, New York 14865

**Physical Address:**

2400 Meads Hill Rd.

Watkins Glen, NY 14891

Telephone (607) 535-0878 FAX (607) 535-0877

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## **A How-To Guide for Rain Gardens**

WATKINS GLEN, August 3, 2015 – A new guide, compiled by the Chemung County Stormwater Coalition, is now available for residents interested in reducing stormwater runoff. The guide gives simplified details on how to design a rain garden.

A rain garden is a shallow depression in the ground planted with native plants with the purpose of soaking up stormwater and allowing it to infiltrate into the ground. Stormwater is a term used to describe the water that does not soak into the ground after a rainfall or snowmelt. It is water that flows over the land's surfaces (roads, lawns, rooftops, etc.) and eventually makes it way to our local waterways. Along the way stormwater collects many pollutants such as litter, pet waste, fertilizers, pesticides, oils and other pollutants which can harm water quality and life.

Rain gardens are an excellent practice to slow rain down, spread it out and allow it to soak into the ground. The rain garden guide describes how to build them.

This brochure is available online at [www.chemungstormwater.org](http://www.chemungstormwater.org) or to obtain a hard copy, stop by the Schuyler County Soil and Water Conservation District office, 2400 Meads Hill Rd., Watkins Glen, NY.

# A How-To Guide for Rain Gardens



*Stormwater Runoff from home construction site.*

## What is Stormwater Runoff?

Stormwater is a term that is used to describe the water that does not soak into the ground after a rainfall or a snowmelt. It is water that flows over the land's surfaces (roads, lawns, rooftops, etc) and eventually makes its way to our local waterways. Along the way stormwater collects many pollutants such as litter, pet waste, fertilizers, pesticides, oils and other pollutants which can harm water quality and aquatic life.



## What is a Rain Garden?

A rain garden is a shallow dish-like depression in the ground that is planted with native plants and flowers. In addition to looking nice, the purpose of the rain garden is to soak up stormwater and infiltrate it into the ground. However, rain gardens also provide many other benefits as well....

- Protect rivers and streams
- Reduce the potential for home flooding
- Creates habitat for birds and butterflies
- Reduce mosquito breeding by removing standing water



*Constructing a rain garden helps improve water quality while creating a beautiful natural area.*