

May 26, 2021

For immediate release

Rain gardens reduce pollutants to local waterways and the Bay of Quinte

A rain garden is a landscaped feature that replaces an area of your lawn in order to collect the stormwater (rain and melted snow) that runs off your grass, roof and driveway. Along the way this stormwater runoff collects a host of pollutants like, fertilizers, pesticides, pet waste, road salt, and litter. This runoff then washes into the storm drain on the street. Did you know that most stormwater runoff drains into the nearest body of water – untreated.

A rain garden is a shallow depression that has loose, deep soil that absorbs and naturally filters the runoff, preventing it from entering the storm drain system and, eventually, our waterways.

Why build a Rain Garden? Because it has a job to do,

- Limiting the amount of water that enters the local storm drain system
- Attracting birds, butterflies, and beneficial insects, such as mosquito-consuming dragonflies
- Reducing the quantity of pollutants that run from our yards and roads straight into our waterways
- Rain gardens are low maintenance. They are planted with beautiful, hardy native plants that require little to no watering
- Reducing the potential for flooding, drainage problems and stream bank erosion
- Restoring and recharging our groundwater system
- Complementing any style of landscape and enhancing the beauty of the surrounding neighbourhood.

Rain gardens are not only functional but beautiful and an asset to your homes landscaping plan. Not sure how to get started, the Bay of Quinte Remedial Action Plan (BQRAP) has a great video that will walk you through the process of building your own rain garden. Starting with choosing the correct site, and size of garden for your property, to the final stage of selecting native plants that will thrive in your rain garden. View the Greening Your Grounds webinar on our web site. www.bqrap.ca

As an incentive to help build a rain garden, the Bay of Quinte Remedial Action Plan (BQRAP) is offering a grant of up to \$500. towards the purchase of native plants, soil, compost, gravel, and mulch to establish a functioning rain garden. To be eligible you need to live in Belleville, Quinte West, Napanee, Deseronto, or Picton.

For more information and details on how to apply, contact, Jason Jobin, BQRAP Environmental Technician
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The Bay of Quinte Remedial Action Plan is in partnership locally with Lower Trent Conservation and Quinte Conservation