



WELCOME TO

AUDUBON

ESTABLISHED 1905

PLEASE  
DRIVE SLOWLY



We are a group of dedicated Audubon residents pursuing environmental awareness and sustainability within Audubon Borough. Through the hard work of achieving Sustainable Jersey's Bronze Certification, the Borough of Audubon shows its commitment to maintaining a healthy and sustainable community for future generations. Join us in making Audubon the best it can be!



**Audubon Green Team**



**Sustainable Audubon**



**[www.sustainableaudubon.com](http://www.sustainableaudubon.com)**



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# Creating our **COMMUNITY RAIN GARDEN** Project

A community-based project  
sponsored by a grant from  
New Jersey American Water



NEW JERSEY  
AMERICAN WATER



# What is a Rain Garden?

*A water-quality tool that you can use in your own yard*

- 💧 A garden of native shrubs, perennials, and flowers planted in a small depression.
- 💧 Designed to temporarily hold and soak in rainwater runoff that flows from roofs, driveways, patios, lawns, or other hard (impervious) surfaces, preventing it from entering the storm sewer system.



# Purpose of a rain garden

## *a solution to pollution*

Rain gardens help protect water quality by reducing stormwater runoff, which is considered one of the main sources of water pollution nation-wide.

When it rains, water collects remnants of our everyday activities such as litter, motor oil, bacteria from pet waste, excess fertilizers and pesticides, and leaves and grass clippings. This polluted stormwater runs off roofs, driveways, parking lots and other hard surfaces to storm drains and then directly to local waters. The soil in rain gardens acts like a living sponge allowing stormwater to soak into the ground instead of carrying pollutants into storm drains and local waterways.

# Why create a rain garden in Audubon?

- 💧 Enhance the beauty of our yards and neighborhood;
- 💧 Increase the amount of water filtering into the ground;
- 💧 Protect our community from flooding and drainage problems;
- 💧 Reduce erosion of stream banks;
- 💧 Reduce stormwater runoff;
- 💧 Provide habitat for birds, butterflies and other beneficial insects.



# Choosing the Location(s)



**Audubon Recreation Center**



# and Green Wave Park





# Getting Community help and support while developing a sense of pride and ownership within the community.





- 💧 Sustainable Audubon
- 💧 Audubon High School Environmental Club
- 💧 Audubon High School Interact Club



# What to plant?

*The fun part!*

A few basic reminders:

-  Use hardy, perennial plants that are native to the region, are aesthetically pleasing, help retain pollutants, and require minimal maintenance.
-  Choose plants for all conditions: Sunny/Shady/Wet/Dry
-  Choose plants for year-round interest
-  Many native plants have deep roots that create channels in the soil for rain to soak into which increases the ability of soil to hold water.



# The plants selected for our rain gardens

**INKBERRY**



**WINTERBERRY**



Rain garden



**GOLDENROD**



**SWAMP MILKWEED**



## *Ilex glabra* (Inkberry)



**Inkberry** is a species of evergreen holly native to the coastal plain of eastern North America. It is most commonly found in sandy woods and peripheries of swamps and bogs.

- 💧 Native to North America,
- 💧 Naturally mounded shape and evergreen,
- 💧 Varies in color from dark- to light-green both in summer and fall,
- 💧 Resistant to disease, pests, and winter burn,
- 💧 Flowers are followed by black berries which persist into winter,
- 💧 This plant attracts birds and is valuable to honey bees.





## *Asclepias incarnata* (Swamp Milkweed)

- 💧 Native, perennial wildflower,
- 💧 Easy to grow,
- 💧 Blooms early to mid-summer, producing small, fragrant, pink to mauve (sometimes white) colored flowers
- 💧 An important nectar source for Monarch butterflies,
- 💧 A variety of pollinators make use of this plant,
- 💧 Requires very little aftercare and is deer-resistant.



## *Solidago rugosa* (Goldenrod)

- 💧 Yellow flowers, which usually bloom in August and September,
- 💧 Provides shelter to larvae of beneficial insects to attracting butterflies,
- 💧 Prefers to be grown in full sun,
- 💧 Tolerates various soil types as long as it's well draining,
- 💧 Drought tolerant and requires little care once established.



## *Ilex verticillata* (Winterberry)

- 💧 A native, woody shrub suited for use in rain gardens,
- 💧 Brightly-colored fruit from fall through winter,
- 💧 Capacity to berry in both full-sun and part-shade,
- 💧 Relative resistance to disease and insect pests,
- 💧 Attracts butterflies and bees,
- 💧 The attractive bright red fruit of winterberry is eaten by small mammals and more than 48 species of birds.



# Rain Garden construction and planting ...





# ... and our completed RAIN GARDENS!



**Audubon Recreation Center**



**Green Wave Park**

# **RAIN GARDEN** frequently asked questions:

## **Will a rain garden attract mosquitos?**

No. When designed properly, water in the rain garden should stand for no more than 24 to 48 hours, Mosquitoes need at least 7 days in standing water to hatch and will not survive if wetland dries out in less than a week.

## **Are they hard to maintain?**

No. By using native plants, that are well adapted to living in our local weather, soil and ecosystems. They can live through downpours and droughts and can survive winters without any special care. They generally do not need fertilizers or pesticides. Some weeding and watering is needed in the first two years to help plants mature.

## **How large should the area be?**

It can be any size, however a typical residential rain garden is usually between 100 and 300 square feet. Rain gardens should be at least 10 feet from the house, on a gentle slope that catches water from the downspout.


## **How expensive is it to create?**

The cost is site specific and varies on who does the work and what plants are selected. The cost should be about \$3 to \$5 per square foot if you purchase the plants and do your own work.

# Resources

 **Rain Garden Manual**

[https://issuu.com/rutgerswater/docs/rain\\_garden\\_manual](https://issuu.com/rutgerswater/docs/rain_garden_manual)

 **Rain Garden Manual for New Jersey**

<https://www.nj.gov/dep/seeds/syhart/rgmp1.pdf>

 **Rain Garden Manual (Native Plant Society of New Jersey)**

[http://www.npsnj.org/pages/nativeplants\\_Rain\\_Gardens.html](http://www.npsnj.org/pages/nativeplants_Rain_Gardens.html)

# Special Acknowledgement

to the following organizations whose collaboration is deeply appreciated.



**Borough of Audubon**



**New Jersey American Water**



**Audubon High School Environmental Club**



**Audubon High School Interact Club**



**Bach Associates, PC**