

Campaign for a Fishable/Swimmable Blackstone River by 2015

Rooftop Runoff - Harvesting Rainwater

Lawns/
Gardens

Redirecting downspouts, collecting rainwater in rain barrels, and creating rain gardens can cut down on your water bill as well as protect water quality.

WHY?

Car Care



Water running off your roof during a rainstorm can be part of the problem — or a resource you can put to good use! On many properties in the Blackstone watershed, rooftop runoff from the gutter and downspout drains to the driveway or onto yards with compacted clay soil. In either case, it eventually flows into **storm drains** in the road and directly into our local streams, often causing flooding. Reducing storm water runoff is the first step to reviving life in urban streams.

Pet Waste

Clean
Dishes/
Clean
Streams

What's a rain garden? A rain garden is an attractive native plant garden with a special purpose: to reduce the amount of stormwater that rushes into our streams and other waterways. It is constructed as a place to direct the stormwater that falls on your property and is landscaped with water-loving native plant species. By creating a rain garden in your yard, you can use rain the way nature intended — instead of wasting this valuable resource!



http://nemo.uconn.edu/tools/publications/rain_garden_broch.pdf

Rooftop
Runoff

Here's how to divert rainwater runoff away from hard surfaces and create rain gardens to infiltrate more, so that you can help support aquatic life and reduce stream bank erosion. What's more, rainwater diversion can help you save water for use in your yard, eliminate potential flooding in your basement, and reduce your water bill.

Household
Hazardous
Waste

HOW?

Redirect downspouts:

◆ Check your gutters and roof drains and remove any leaves or other debris that may block water flow. If leaf accumulation is a recurring problem, consider installing commercial gutter shields.

◆ If your roof drain downspouts discharge to your driveway or too close to the house, install extensions that carry the water at least six feet away from the driveway or foundation to a vegetated area of your yard. Use additional pieces of downspout or open gutters for the extensions. Place a splash block at the end of the extension to spread out the water as it runs onto your lawn. This reduces the potential for soil erosion.

◆ Or you can collect runoff in a rain barrel to use for irrigation. Cut off your downspout at an appropriate distance from the ground, and place a rain barrel underneath. Place screening over it to protect it from leaf litter and mosquitoes. Attach a hose to the spigot or use a watering can.



Pervious
Surfaces

Stream
Buffers

more →

