

Rain Catching Garden

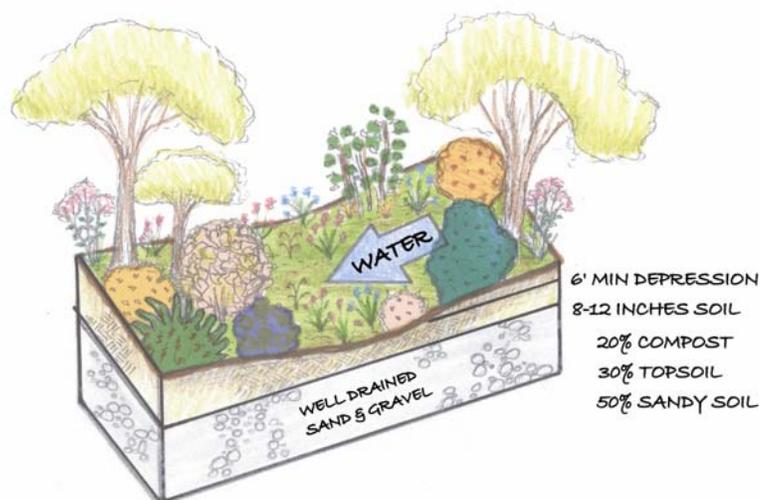
Stormwater runoff is increasingly problematic in areas where tree clearing, new development, driveways, roads and even lawns are displacing healthy, vegetated landscapes. Before development, stormwater filtered back into the soil and recharged groundwater directly where it fell. Now water flows quickly over hard, impervious surfaces, picking up pollutants (fertilizers, pesticides, oil, etc.) on its way to storm drains, wetlands, streams, rivers and lakes. Concord's stormwater is part of the Sudbury, Assabet, and Concord River Watershed, which eventually flows to the Merrimack River and Atlantic Ocean.

Landscape features can help filter stormwater runoff before it leaves your property.

- ❑ Pervious driveways made from porous paving, peastone or pavers allow water to filter directly on-site.
- ❑ Replacing lawn with garden beds of native trees, shrubs and groundcovers allow for greater water filtration and aquifer recharge, as well as reducing maintenance and the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides on the landscape.
- ❑ Rain gardens or low, planted depressions, hold water from downspouts and gutters just long enough to filter stormwater back into the soil.

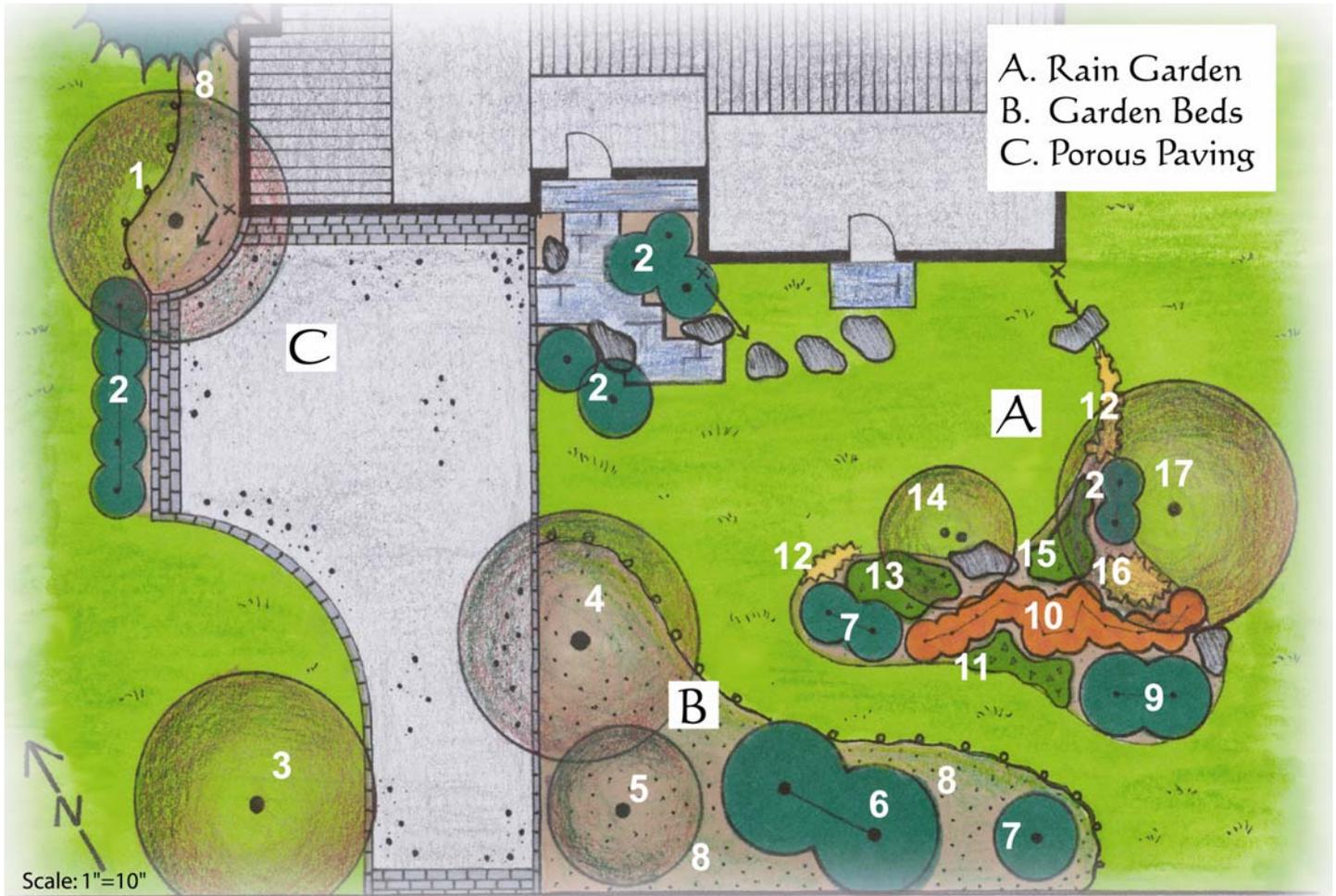
Rain gardens must be located at least 10' down-slope from the house foundation and 20' from your septic leachfield. They should be approximately 10'x 30' with a 1-2' depression at the deepest point. A soil mixture of 50-60% sand, 20-30% topsoil, and 20-30% compost will ensure that stormwater filters through the rain garden in less than 24 hours – too short a time to breed mosquitoes, which require about a week of standing water to reproduce.

To direct stormwater from the downspout, bury a length of NON-PVC plastic pipe to the rain garden or create a small, dry-stone swale meandering from the downspout to the rain garden. In the lowest part of the rain garden plant species that can tolerate short periods of standing water as well as fluctuating water levels. Plant species that prefer drier soils as you proceed up the rain garden slope.



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Rain Garden Planting Plan



Botanical Name	Common Name	Height	Light	Moisture	Value
1 <i>Cercis canadensis</i>	Eastern redbud	20'-30'	full sun	dry-moist	ornamental
2 <i>Ilex glabra</i> 'shamrock'	Inkberry holly	4'-6'	part shade	dry-wet	evergreen cover
3 <i>Acer rubrum</i>	Red maple	75'-100'	sun-part shade	wet-dry	high wildlife, buffer
4 <i>Acer saccharum</i>	Sugar maple	60'-80'	sun-part shade	moist-wet	fall color
5 <i>Amalanchier canadensis</i>	Shadblow serviceberry	20'-30'	sun-part shade	dry-moist	wildlife, buffer
6 <i>Kalmia latifolia</i>	Mountain laurel	5'-8'	sun-full shade	dry	evergreen cover
7 <i>Fothergilla gardenii</i>	Fothergilla	3'-5'	sun-full shade	moist-wet	ornamental
8 <i>Arctostaphylos urva-ursi</i>	Bearberry	6"-1'	sun-part shade	dry	ornamental
9 <i>Ilex verticillata</i>	Winterberry holly	6'-12'	part shade	moist-wet	wildlife, ornamental
10 <i>Cornus stolonifera</i>	Red-osier dogwood	3'-6'	sun-part shade	moist-wet	winter interest
11 <i>Chelone glabra</i>	White turtlehead	1'-3'	part-full shade	moist-wet	wildlife
12 <i>Carex pennsylvanica</i>	Pennsylvania sedge	6"-1'	sun-part shade	moist-wet	texture
13 <i>Osmunda regalis</i>	Royal fern	2'-3'	part-full shade	moist-wet	texture
14 <i>Cornus alternifolia</i>	Pagoda dogwood	8'-15'	sun-part shade	dry	buffer, ornamental
15 <i>Asclepias incarnata</i>	Swamp milkweed	2'-5'	full sun	dry-moist	birds, butterflies
16 <i>Sorghastrum nutans</i>	Indian grass	5'-6'	sun	dry-moist	monarch butterfly
17 <i>Franklinia alatamaha</i>	Franklin tree	12'-15'	full sun	dry-moist	fall flowers