



1000 Rain Gardens
for the Inland Bays



The Goal...

*To promote the
creation of
rain gardens
throughout the
Inland Bays
Watershed*



Why?

As a citizen education/engagement project to build awareness about:



- ❖ *native plants*
- ❖ *species diversity*
- ❖ *stormwater management*
- ❖ *habitat restoration*



Helping citizens and communities
shift their understanding
to treat water as a resource,
not a waste product



Scope of the Project

To work with partners to promote the creation of 1000 rain gardens at

- ❖ *Town halls*
- ❖ *Schools*
- ❖ *Churches*
- ❖ *Communities through HOA's*
- ❖ *And in backyards*



What began as a citizen outreach idea presents opportunities for creating projects that can produce measurable reductions in nutrients going into our waterways.

And not just reduction in nutrients...



But other benefits as well...

- Effective pollutant treatment for solids, metals, and pathogens and hydrocarbons
- Groundwater recharge augmentation
- Help in control of water flow and volume during storm events
- Creation of micro-scale habitats
- Aesthetic improvement over turfgrass
- And a best management practice for municipalities for regulatory purposes



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What we have so far...



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Bringing Partners in Cooperative Partners *Regional*

A regional initiative 'Rain Gardens for the Bays'

- ❖ US EPA Region 3
Office of State and Watershed Partnerships
Water Protection Division
- ❖ Partnership for the Delaware Estuary
- ❖ Maryland Coastal Bays
- ❖ Environmental Concern



Bringing Partners In

Cooperative Partners

Regional

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Cooperative Partners

State

- ❖ Delaware Nature Society
- ❖ DNREC, Division of Water Resources, Watershed Assessment
- ❖ UD Sea Grant
- ❖ UD Cooperative Extension
- ❖ UD Department of Agriculture
- ❖ Delaware Native Species Society
- ❖ Delaware Invasive Species Council



Cooperative Partners

County

- ❖ Sussex County Conservation District
- ❖ Sussex County Master Gardeners
- ❖ Sussex County Cooperative Extension



Cooperative Partners

Watershed

- ❖ CIB Citizens Advisory Committee
Outreach working group
- ❖ Town of Millville
- ❖ Town of Fenwick Island
- ❖ Gardeners by the Sea



Delaware Nature Society

Backyard Habitat Program

*Plant a Rain Garden to Create a
Backyard Habitat*



Launch Plans

May 16

Gardening for the Bays

Native Plant Sale

James Farm Ecological Preserve

DE Nature Society

Master Gardeners

DE Native Plant Society

DNREC

Local Garden Clubs



Launch Plans

Activities at the Native Plant Sale

- ❖ Native bees for native plants
- ❖ Native plant walks
- ❖ Rain gardens for back yard habitats
- ❖ How to make a rain barrel
- ❖ Rain Garden Plant “kits” for sale by nurseries
- ❖ Native Plants for Rain Gardens
- ❖ Auction Rain Barrels
- ❖ Auction a Rain Garden



Year One Goals...



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Year 1 Goals

- ❖ Identify funding to building a demonstration rain gardens at town halls in the watershed
- ❖ Identify partners for demonstration rain gardens at a business, church, HOA, etc.
- ❖ Develop a power point presentation that CAC Outreach members and DNS Habitat Stewards can take to community groups
- ❖ Launch the Rain Gardens for Back Yard Habitats program
- ❖ Develop incentives: rain garden contests, photography contests, etc.



On-Going

- ❖ Promotion through garden clubs
- ❖ Presentations to HOA's
- ❖ Town Hall Demonstration Habitat Program
- ❖ Schoolyard Habitat Program
- ❖ Annual contests for rain gardens
- ❖ Publicizing benchmarks



❖ Outreach Materials

Producing and assembling outreach materials to be put on the website in pdf format

Many of these already exist:

- ❖ How to plant a rain garden
- ❖ List/brochure of DE native plants for rain gardens
- ❖ Where to obtain native plants
- ❖ Where to obtain rain barrels
- ❖ Designs for rain gardens
- ❖ Website



What we are doing is creating a program...

- **That will create demonstration projects that can produce measureable results.**
- **That can demonstrate the effectiveness of these relatively inexpensive, relatively low cost stormwater installations**
- **That can help communities meet other goals and regulations, such as the preservation of open space**
- **And offer coastal communities such as South Bethany, where there is limited opportunity for traditional stormwater retrofits, a way to reduce direct input of stormwater into waterways, in their case, into the canals .**

And the idea we started with...



**Promotion of watershed
education and stewardship**



**1000 Rain Gardens
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Our next Meeting...

Wed, April 1st (no foolin')

11-1 p.m.

Center for the Inland Bays

You're invited!



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