

(FrontGate)

Mount Joy Borough Builds Community Rain Garden to Reduce Pollution

In an effort to combat pollution and conserve environmental resources like clean water, the Borough of Mount Joy in Lancaster County worked together to build something unique – a community rain garden.

Rain gardens are an effective way to stave off the effects of polluting run-offs from roofs, parking lots and impervious surfaces. A rain garden is a depressed garden that uses mulch, soil and deep-rooted native plants to capture, absorb and infiltrate stormwater.

Mount Joy’s rain garden was designed to empower residents and the community to confront local flooding concerns, promote ground water recharge, improve the availability of runoff and educate about sustainable solutions.

The rain garden is located adjacent to the borough’s offices and is a 24’ by 24’ patch of ground that handles stormwater runoff from the building’s roof. There is a secondary rain garden, located adjacent to the first one, to capture and filter overflow from the parking lot.

Constructed in August 2013, local Boy and Girl Scout troops and other community volunteers assisted with adding more than 750 plants. After it rains, the runoff is directed into the rain garden where the plants and soil filter the water. One year later, the rain garden is in full bloom.

“We wanted to make something that was hands-on that the community could participate in from start to finish. It was a great way to engage the community,” said Stacie Gibbs, Zoning and Codes Officer for Mount Joy Borough.



ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY Mount Joy Borough Public Works Director Tom Strubel assists a Girl Scout in adding some plants to the community rain garden

The borough also hosted how-to workshops for residents who were interested in constructing a rain garden on their property.

Mount Joy Borough was also the recipient of a \$4,900 Water Resources Education Network (WREN) grant. WREN is a project of the League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania Citizen Education Fund. WREN advocates for the protection and management of Pennsylvania’s water resources. You can learn more about the grant process at www.sourcewaterpa.org. **(B)**