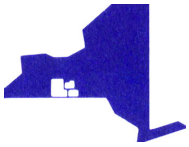
LOW IMPACT DEVELOPMENT (LID) SAMPLER

August 2007

The Low Impact Development Sampler is a selection of LID projects in eleven of the Upper Susquehanna Coalition's fourteen member counties (as of 2003). The Sampler was created to:

- Show the variety of LID techniques already in place in the region.
- Prove that LID works in northern climates.
- Provide enough financial and technical information so that the reader can decide if that practice will work for him/her.
- Encourage more use of LID techniques so that rainwater becomes a resource rather than a costly and dangerous burden.
- Present the information in an easy-to-read format.

We hope you enjoy this booklet and can use some of the ideas it contains.



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In conjunction with the member counties of the:
Upper Susquehanna Coalition

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Chemung County, NY
Residential Rain Garden

Project Location: Residential property, Town of Big Flats, NY

The planted rain garden at a Big Flats creates interest in the yard while capturing runoff.

A homeowner in the Town of Big Flats was inspired by training given by the Chemung County Stormwater Coalition educator and created a rain garden in her lawn. The finished rain garden is planted with Echinacea (cone flower), Cosmos, Iris, and Holly Hocks from her own traditional garden.

The first step was to measure the area that drains to the rain garden. In this case, all the water from the roof would be directed there.

The pipe at the far right of this photo directs water to the rain garden

Here is the second step in crating a rain garden: removing the sod and Creating a shallow basin to collect and soak in water.

The roof area is 1200 square feet and will generate 720 gallons of water during a 1" rainstorm. This means that a rain garden about 8 feet by 30 feet and 7" - 8" deep is needed. However, the landowner chose an irregular shape to fit existing landscaping and contours. Occasional excess runoff flows to a large lawn. The second step was to remove the sod and create a berm at the low end to let the water pond temporarily (about a day). Finish with stone, soil, plants and mulch.

ESTIMATED CONSTRUCTION COSTS: $350 to $450
Materials: Crushed stone as the initial layer covered by native soil mixed with compost: $50; 10 bags of topsoil: $25; and 8 bags of double ground mulch: $40. If purchased, 24 herbaceous plants in clusters: $168—$288
Crew/equipment: One person hired to do the major digging: $75. The homeowner and friend also worked on the project by planting and applying the mulch.

ANNUALIZED MAINTENANCE COSTS: about $15. Annual mulching. Expect to re-mulch the area every one to two years.