

Protect Clean Water in Tinker's Creek: *Plant a Rain Garden!*

Every time it rains, water runs off of your roof, driveway and even your lawn, to make its way to the sewer at the street and eventually to Tinker's Creek. Along the way, it picks up fertilizer, pesticides, dirt, oil, pet waste and lots of other sources of pollution that hurt water quality and aquatic life in the Creek. And too much water, too fast, can overwhelm the storm sewers and result in sewage pollution, flooding and erosion, all of which cost a bunch of money to fix. So what can we do?

Plant a rain garden! Rain gardens are beautiful spaces filled with flowers and grasses that capture rainwater, slow it down and let it soak into the ground while enhancing your landscape. They are easy to make, last for years, and can attract butterflies and birds. By reducing the amount of water that is shed from your property, you are helping to reduce pollution in Tinker's Creek, conserve wildlife habitat, and save tax dollars from being used to fix flood damage. In fact, you may even be eligible to get a credit against stormwater fees for reducing your stormwater runoff.

Want to see one completed? In 2007, dozens of volunteers installed a 900 square foot rain garden at the Twinsburg Wastewater Treatment Plant as part of the Tinker's Creek Watershed Festival. In 2009, the Tinker's Creek Watershed Partners and volunteers installed a demonstration rain garden at the Barlow Community Center Building, in Hudson. And in 2011, the Village of Oakwood installed a garden at the community park adjacent to Mt. Zion Church. More information, including the excellent "Rain Garden Manual for Homeowners" written by local experts can be found on the TCWP website at www.tinkerscreekwatershed.org.

Working together we can keep our Tinker's Creek healthy and clean. It's a small investment that will yield tremendous benefits for our families and future generations—start planting!