



LAND TRUST

We are here to help!

For assistance in researching, designing, or installing your own rain garden, contact the Lake Champlain Land Trust at (802) 862-4150 or email info@lclt.org.

*Remember to call DigSafe (888-344-7233) to check about underground lines before digging.



BEFORE



AFTER

67 Main Street Rain Garden

A beautiful way to protect the water quality of Lake Champlain through a partnership effort of the Lake Champlain Land Trust, The Green Life, and the City of Burlington.



For more information: www.LCLT.org | (802) 862-4150 | info@lclt.org

What is a Rain Garden?

A **rain garden** is a shallow, depressed garden that captures rain water runoff from impervious surfaces (roads, sidewalks, driveways, roofs, etc.).

Rain water flows into the garden where it can then slowly filter through the ground, allowing the filtering of pollutants and absorption of nutrients.

Below is the design for the rain garden located outside The Green Life at 67 Main St, Burlington, VT.

WINDFLOWER
Anemone canadensis



BUTTERFLY MILKWEED
Asclepias tuberosa



CARDINAL FLOWER
Lobelia cardinalis



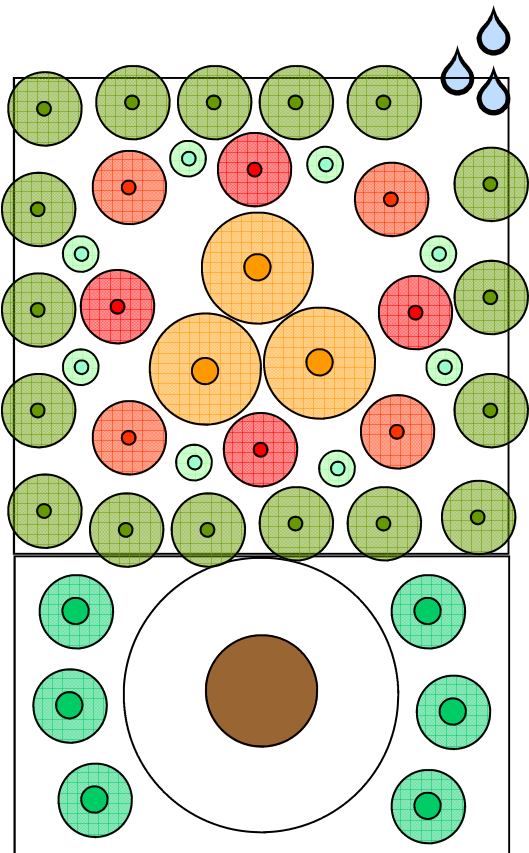
RED COLUMBINE
Aquilegia canadensis



PENNSYLVANIA SEDGE
Carex pensylvanica



LADY FERN
Athyrium filix-femina



KEY Ash -- Cardinal Flower -- Butterfly Milkweed -- Windflower -- PA Sedge -- Red Columbine -- Lady Fern

Dark, inner circles represent size at planting; light, outer circles represent size at full growth.

How to Build a Rain Garden

Choose your site: You want to build your rain garden on a slightly sloped, sunny to partly sunny surface where it will receive water from storm runoff. *Make sure to build at least 10 feet from your house foundation and do not plant on top of your septic system.*

Percolation Test: Dig a 6" wide hole, one foot deep. Fill the hole with water and let the water drain completely. Fill the hole with water again. Keep track how long it takes the water to drain this time around. If it drains within a few hours, the site is suitable for a rain garden.

Size: The size of the garden should be 5-10% of the impervious surface that will be draining into it. The size will also depend on soil type; if your soil is clay, it will need more surface area for filtration (clay soils drain slower than other soil types).

Plants: Choose perennial natives that will grow well in the amount of sunlight and the soil type your site offers. Make sure to choose plants that can tolerate both wet and dry conditions. Choose plants that bloom at different times of the summer and that grow to different heights for variety. *Make sure to water your plants after planting and daily until they are established (at least two weeks).*

Digging: If your garden will be located on a slope, you will need to make the bottom of the garden level by digging soil from the upper slope and moving to the lower slope.

To do this, measure the slope of the site (rise/run x 100 = slope %). A slope less than 4% will need 3-5 inches deep of soil moved from the upper slope to the lower slope. A slope of 5-7% will need 6-7 inches deep of soil moved, and a 8-12% slope will need 8 inches deep of soil moved.

Create a berm on the lower slope of your garden to keep water runoff in the garden.

Additional Tips: *Mulch* the garden to improve water filtration and to suppress weeds. Feel free to add an inch or two of *compost* to the garden to improve water filtration and to add a nutrient boost for the plants. If *sediment* gets washed into the garden over time, that means the garden is doing it's job! But make sure to remove the sediment.