



Rain Gardens



Abi Locatis

Rain that falls on the roofs of our buildings flows down the drainpipes into rock swales or underground pipes. The swales and pipes flow into rain gardens where the water collects and slowly seeps into the ground during the days after a storm.



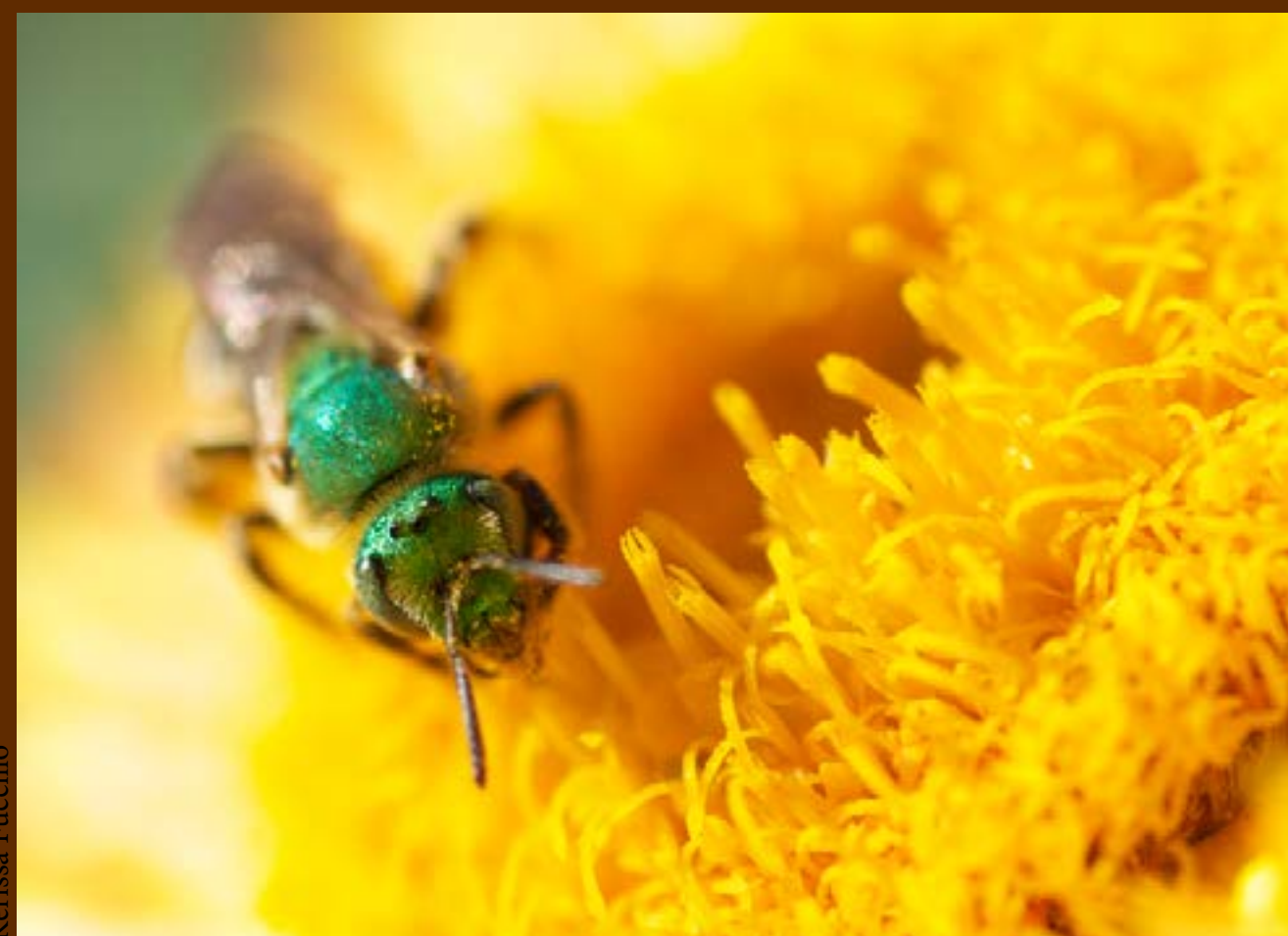
Kerissa Fucillo

We selected plants tolerant of dry and wet conditions and planted them in a layer of carefully mixed soil on top of a layer of gravel. Layers allow the rain garden to recharge the ground with thirty percent more rainwater than a similarly sized mowed lawn.



Kerissa Fucillo

Our rain gardens prevent erosion of roads and paths. Rain gardens in cities and towns can help prevent combined sewer overflows by diverting stormwater away from the municipal sewer system. They also filter out pollutants such as metals and excess nutrients and keep them from entering other waterways.



Kerissa Fucillo

Native rain garden plants provide food and shelter for beneficial insects, birds and other wildlife. In our rain gardens we planted as many nectar-rich native rain garden plants as possible to support pollinators. These gardens are used as teaching tools to illustrate ecosystem services and community action for conservation of natural resources.

How You Can Help

Keep your local water cycle functioning. Avoid creating impervious surfaces. Leave natural wetlands intact.

Build a rain garden at your home or business. Visit ashokancenter.org for a species list and resources for building rain gardens in your community.

Learn more about green infrastructure. A simple web search brings up a host of information. Cornell University offers training programs for professionals.

Get involved with community planning. Encourage your town planning board to consider rain gardens and other green infrastructure features as stormwater management solutions.



This project is funded in part by CRISP in collaboration with the Ashokan Center.

The Catskill Regional Invasive Species Partnership (CRISP) is one of eight Partnerships for Regional Invasive Species Management in New York State. Hosted by the Catskill Center for Conservation and Development in Arkville, CRISP promotes education, prevention, early detection and control of invasive species to limit their impact on the ecosystems and economies of the Catskills.



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