

RAIN GARDEN FACT SHEET

CITY OF TROY – BEACH ROAD PARK RAIN GARDEN

Location: Beach Road Park, located on Beach Road, between Wattles Road and Long Lake Road, west side.

Site Owner/Manager: City of Troy, Department of Parks and Recreation

Rain Garden Design and Public Education Contact:

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Project partners: Troy Department of Parks and Recreation
Troy Department of Public Works
Troy Department of Engineering
SOCWA Healthy Lawns and Gardens

Origin of storm water: Large parking lot, plus grassed area.

Area covered by rain garden: Approximately 70 feet long and 30 feet wide

Construction date: May 2005

Construction method: Excavation and removal of clay soil to a depth of about 3 feet. Original clay soil replaced with a mix of 2/3 yard waste compost and 1/3 sharp sand. Overflow is via surface flow to the roadway swale which connects to the Rouge River at the north end of the park. (No underdrain).

Site condition prior to rain garden installation: The rain garden site, located just to the south of the large parking lot, was a grassed area that collected storm water. It was frequently muddy and unsightly, with poor grass growth. (Clay soil site).

Planting plan: Native shrubs and easy-care wildflowers (perennials), combined with a “dry stone” riverbed. Steel edging used to separate “dry” riverbed from flower and shrub beds. SOCWA volunteers assisted in the early design stages by provided sample layout plans and plant selections. Plants were purchased by the City of Troy and installed by community and SOCWA volunteers on May 20, 2005.

Maintenance plan: Maintenance (including watering, plant replacement, weeding, pruning) is the responsibility of the Troy Department of Parks and Recreation. Maintenance may also be done by neighbors on a volunteer basis.

Special features and benefits:

- The community, volunteer planting day involved 20 volunteers and Troy staff. Volunteers planted trees and shrubs and moved mulch, working in a team-like fashion to accomplish the work. Lunch was provided. The rain garden planting event led to photographs and news articles, as well as a special column in the Observer/Eccentric, written by a SOCWA volunteer.
- The attractive landscape design enhances the appearance of Beach Road Park. Signs will be used to inform residents that the site is a “Rain Garden for the Rouge River.”
- In the future, a walking path connecting with subdivisions over ½ mile away is anticipated. The rain garden is the focal point for the pathway.

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Troy Beach Road Park, Rain Garden Pre-Construction



Troy Beach Road Park, Rain Garden, May 2005, soon after planting