

Volunteers turned out on a beautiful April morning in 2006 to plant the community rain garden at Fairville Park. Located below the southwest corner of the parking lot, the garden is designed to receive storm water runoff from the parking area. It is filled with native plants that will absorb and clean the flowing water, while allowing more time for it to infiltrate the soil, recharging the ground water.

The rain garden is a West Hanover Environmental Advisory Council project. With approval from the Board of Supervisors, the EAC worked closely with West Hanover Parks & Recreation Board members and Parks & Recreation Coordinator Dixie Fesig, to include it in the Fairville Park Master Plan. Rebecca Wertime from the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay (ACB) led a rain garden planning workshop that drew many interested township residents. Partial funding was provided by ACB and the Pennsylvania Environmental Council, under a PA DCNR grant to improve the health of watersheds within the Kittatinny Ridge. The Kittatinny Ridge, better known locally as Blue Mountain, is designated by Audubon Pennsylvania as a PA Important Bird Area.

The cooperative effort involved many from the local community: West Hanover Township Public Works Director Harold Harmon provided support, along with a number of local businesses: Richard W. Bolt, P.E. of Bolt Engineering (technical calculations and drawings), Mr. Bob's Subway (lunch for volunteers), and Yingst Construction Company (back hoe work). Penn State Master Gardener Jim Egenreider provided valuable advice and assistance. John Carricato and Hershey Gardens, and Jan Getgood of Meadowood Nursery were sources for native plants. Drannon Buskirk and Harrisburg Area Community College donated stone for the rock garden area. The EAC thanks all these people, and especially the many hard-working volunteers who cheerfully spent their sunny Saturday "digging in."

Members and friends of the EAC have continued to maintain the rain garden, with weeding and replanting days, usually in the spring and fall. Additional information may be obtained by contacting the EAC at 717-652-4841.

The Rain Garden at Fairville Park

What is a Rain Garden?

A **rain garden**, also known as a bioretention area, is a specially designed garden planted with native wildflowers, grasses and shrubs. Rain gardens contain soils that have been mixed with mulch and compost so they work like the layered conditions of a forest floor. This **rain garden** collects the water (stormwater runoff) from the parking lot after a rain. The plants and soils act as a filter to remove pollutants, like gas, oil and sediment, before the water soaks into the ground.



Why is the Rain Garden Here?

The Rain Garden at Fairville Park was planned, constructed and planted by the members of the West Hanover Township EAC (Environmental Advisory Council) and community volunteers in April 2006, through a grant provided from PA DCNR's Community Conservation Partnership Program administered by the Bureau of Recreation and Conservation. It provides a scenic place, food and habitat for insects and birds, as well as stormwater management for the parking lot.

Many people helped...

Support from the West Hanover Township Board of Supervisors and Park & Recreation Board. Technical assistance and plant selection provided by the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay. Engineering provided by Bolt Engineering. Site excavation done by Yingst Homes, Inc. Native plants were purchased from Meadowood Nursery, with plant donations from John Carricato and Hershey Gardens. Food for planting day provided by Mr. Bob's Subway. Rock waterfall construction and rain garden maintenance provided by Jim Egenreider. Hauling provided by the West Hanover Township Public Works Department. Rocks provided by Drannon Buskirk and HACC. Watering tanks provided by the Recycling Center at Hershey Foods Corporation.

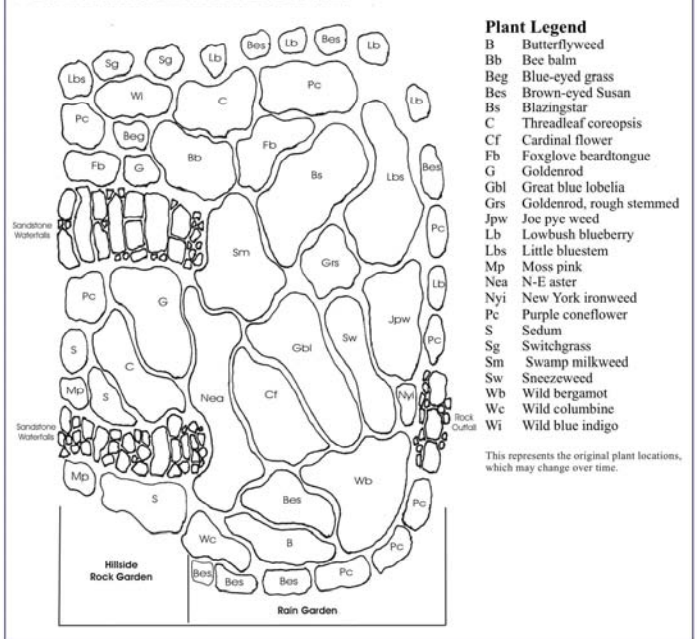
Planting volunteers were...

Betty Starnowsky	Mattie Buskirk
Jim Cieri	Edna Hafer
Rachael Wirick	Mary Ann Yahm
Joel Fackler	Jim Egenreider
Steve Budd	Mary House
Jason Keveney	Rick Bolt
Sandra Ramsey	Annette Sanders
Sheila Hall	Rebecca Wertime

EAC Members...

John Miele
John Aciri
Audrey Crichton
Bill Ostermayer
Bob Garland
Carol Buskirk
Patti Estheimer

What is Planted in the Rain Garden?



The Rain Garden at Fairville Park was awarded the Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful Community Greening Award in September 2006.



West Hanover Township www.westhanover.com
7171 Allentown Blvd
Harrisburg, PA 17112

2006 Board of Supervisors: Robert Ziltz, Chairman, Lawrence Hartman, Vice Chairman, Michael Jacobs, Secretary/Treasurer, Richard Mullen, Linda Tarns