



## The Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District Rain Garden Cost Share Program

For the past three years, the Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District (WNRCD) and UVM Extension Lake Champlain Sea Grant have partnered to hold a Rooftop to River Rain Garden Contest in the Lake Champlain watershed. The goal of the contest is to encourage the installation of rain gardens to reduce the volume of stormwater entering local water bodies and improve water quality in the Lake Champlain Basin, and in particular, in stormwater-impaired streams in Chittenden County. Since its inception, the contest has been a huge success.

In 2011, in addition to the contest itself, we are able to offer a 50% cost share on a reimbursable basis for select rain gardens. This cost share opportunity provides up to **\$150 dollars (\$300 for up to five Burlington residents)** for plant materials, soil amendments, and equipment rentals. To be eligible, you must meet the following requirements:

- Install a rain garden in the Lake Champlain Watershed between May 15, 2011 and October 15, 2011
- Treat a minimum of 300 square feet of impervious area
- Agree to the terms and conditions of the Rain Garden Cost Share Program

Funding is limited and preference will go to impaired waterways and sensitive areas. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis. To learn more about the WNRCD Rain Garden Program or to fill out an application, please visit our website at [www.vacd.org/winooski](http://www.vacd.org/winooski) or contact Justin Kenney at (802) 828-4493 x113.



**What is a rain garden?** A rain garden is an attractive, landscaped garden that is used to treat stormwater runoff, usually from a roof, parking lot, or other impervious surface. The garden is planted in an excavated shallow depression (usually 4-8" deep) that is strategically located to collect storm runoff coming from a roof or parking lot.

During a rain event, the garden will temporarily fill with water, but this water will infiltrate back into the soil within a few hours. In this way, most of the stormwater is returned to the groundwater supply, instead of running over the land and directly into our stormdrains, streams, and lakes. Rain gardens also help prevent pollutants from reaching our streams, since toxins in runoff often adhere to soil particles in the garden, or are taken up by plants.



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