



RED LION RESIDENTIAL RAIN GARDEN PROJECT

Suburban Lawn to Natural Water Pollution Reduction System

PROJECT GOALS

Improve stream and community health.

COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC BENEFITS

- Saved \$4,000 in mowing costs.
- Increased adjacent property values by an average of \$37,000.
- Increased local property tax revenue.
- Provided educational tours to 350 adults and 4H youth.
- Provided access to green space to local residents.
- Planted trees provide shade, lower temperatures and reduced energy costs.

ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

- Reduced runoff from installation of detention basin.
- Protected local drinking water source.
- Increased wildlife habitat.
- Slows water infiltration rate, protecting downstream areas from flooding and erosion.

CONSERVATION PROJECTS INSTALLED

- Detention basin converted to rain garden/ bio-retention basin
- Rain gardens
- Urban forestry
- Pollinator gardens
- Bird habitat



Photo: JPL Creative

“Owning, maintaining and improving a stormwater BMP (Best Management Practice) required a lot of personal research which included contacting government agencies, attending a variety of education programs and many trips to the library. Anyone who owns a home or property has stormwater issues, and I enjoy sharing the knowledge I have gained and helping people in the community.

- Thomas Smith


PROJECT SUMMARY

A resident of a suburban, residential development in Red Lion, Pa. decided to use green infrastructure to transform their property. The front lawn now contains a rain garden and bioswale, while an accompanying stormwater basin for a large portion of the development filters nutrients and sediment from 27 surrounding acres. The entire project took five years to complete. The property is now used as a positive example of a green infrastructure project and over 350 visitors have toured the site since its completion.


THINGS TO CONSIDER

- Always consult with your local municipality before beginning any type of green infrastructure project.
- Discuss the goals and benefits of the project with your neighbors to help ease their concerns.
- Build in time to research native trees and vegetation.

CONTACT

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The front yard of a home in a residential development in Red Lion, Pa. with minimal landscaping. (Photo: Tom Smith)



Lush, native vegetation covers the front yard of the same home after the installation of a rain garden and bioswale on the property. (Photo: JPL Creative)



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