

WATER CONSERVATION is the most cost-effective and environmentally sound way to reduce our demand for water. Outdoor water use accounts for up to 50% of water consumed by an average household.¹ There are many different ways to retrofit an owner's lawn to be more water efficient, depending on their preference and ability towards outdoor residential design. Things like choosing drought tolerant turf and plants can help reduce the amount of water used.

RAIN GARDENS allow rain and snowmelt, which would otherwise be carried away in storm drains to seep naturally into the ground. This helps recharge the groundwater supply, and reduces polluted runoff directed to rivers. Runoff that travels into a rain garden is temporarily held while it infiltrates, but it doesn't stay there for long. A rain garden is designed with deep-rooted plants that come back year after year. By installing rain gardens, homeowners can create landscapes that add beauty, wildlife habitat and interest to a yard while helping manage storm water more sustainably.

PREFERRED RESIDENTIAL LANDSCAPE DESIGN²



Forested yard; reduces the amount of grass and plants that need regular watering.



Limit lawn; using lawn only where it serves a necessary use.



Drought tolerant plants; using plants that can withstand droughts, native plants are preferred



Meadow with mowed edges; replacing lawn with native meadow plants. The taller plants will retain moisture. Specialized mowing equipment may be needed, as well as invasive plant maintenance.

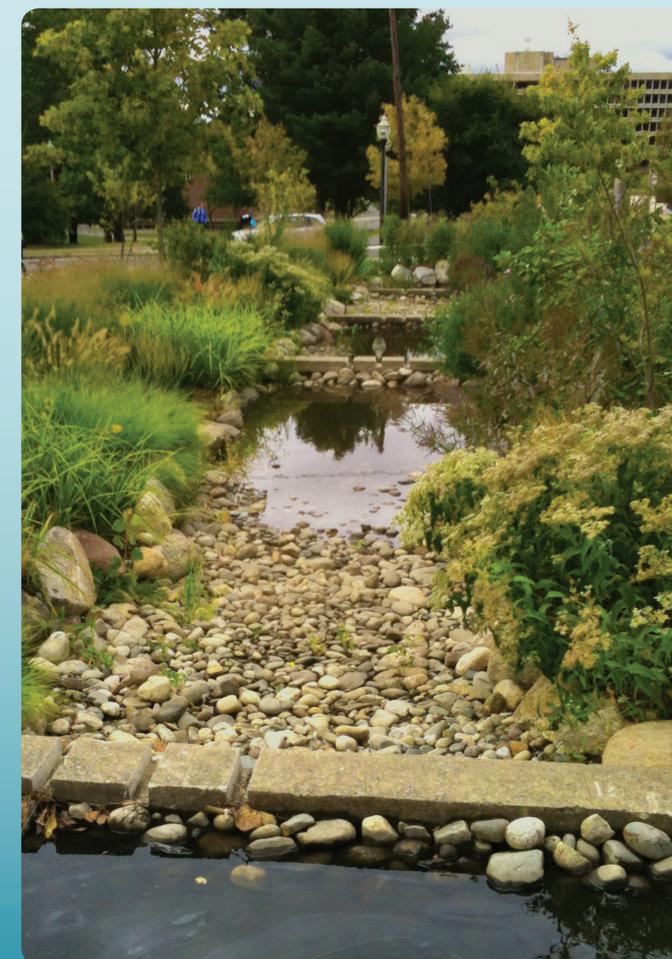
Porous driveway; porous pavers or gravel allow rain water to infiltrate.



Rain barrel; catches rain water from the roof. It can be placed in a way so that it's not noticeable. Ideal for small yards.



Naturalized lawn; native plants suited for the summer climate require less watering. Similar to a meadow, it's not suited for a recreational space.



1. (Massachusetts Water Resources Authority, 2006)
2. (Stacy, 2015)

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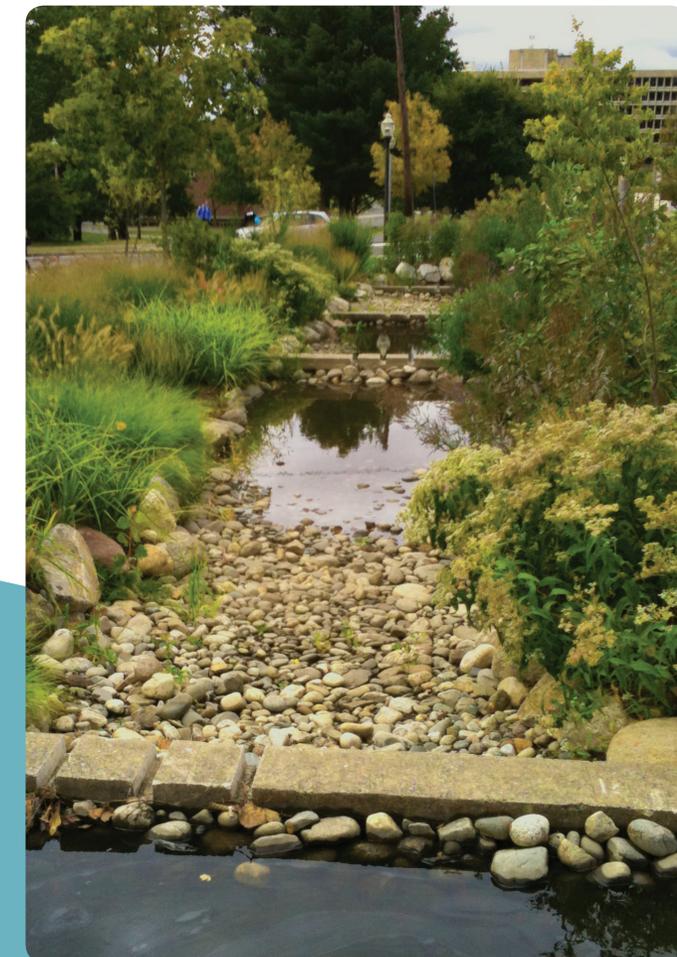
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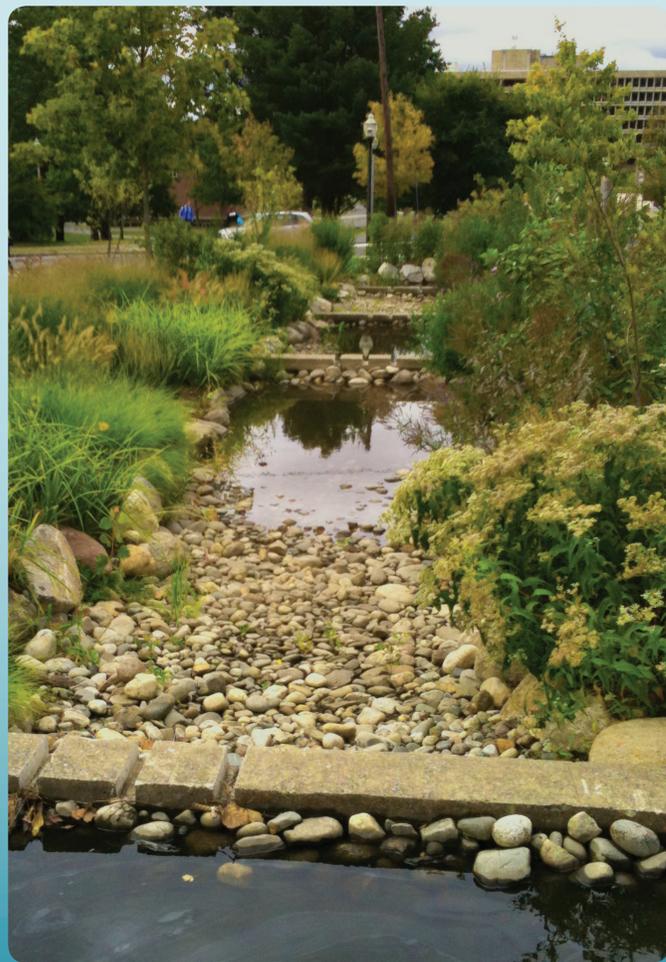
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