



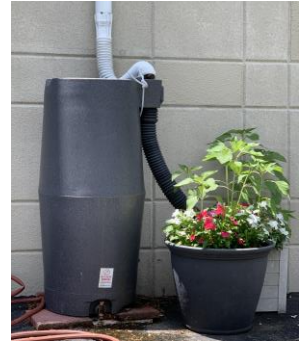
# Stormwater Solutions

## Rain Garden Tour

### Geneva Presbyterian Church

### Property 2019-1: Multiple Projects

**CONSERVATION LANDSCAPING** can help protect air and water, manage stormwater, conserve energy, and provide a more beautiful, healthier human environment. By using native plants, you'll reduce water, pesticide and fertilizer use, and save time compared to maintaining a lawn. Native plants are a vital element in a conservation landscape — they've adapted to the local climate, need little fertilizing, and are typically more drought-tolerant and pest-resistant than introduced varieties. Many are also important food and shelter sources for birds and beneficial insects, including honeybees, ladybugs, and butterflies.



**RAIN BARRELS** are containers connected to your downspouts to collect runoff from your roof. They range in size but must hold a minimum of 55 gallons to qualify for the RainScapes program, and come in a range of colors, designs, and materials. Benefits of a Rain Barrel include savings on your water bill when the barrel water is used for non-edible plant irrigation; reduced flooding in your yard or basement, and less stormwater runoff from your property, resulting in less sediment and other pollutants washed into nearby storm drains and local streams.

**RAIN GARDENS** are attractive landscape features constructed to capture stormwater runoff from hard surfaces such as your roof, driveway, patio, or sidewalk. A rain garden is a garden with a shallow depression that collects and drains stormwater. Rain gardens typically are planted with native plants with deep roots that loosen the soil, so stormwater can soak into the ground more easily. Rain gardens help to meet the RainScapes' goal of using innovative natural approaches to reduce water pollution, stream channel erosion, and drainage problems caused by stormwater runoff.



**PROPERTY OWNER COMMENTS** One of Geneva's long-term goal is to reduce the storm water runoff. This is a very large undertaking and it was intimidating. In April 2015, one dedicated church member attended a workshop about the National Wildlife Federation's Sacred Grounds Program, an innovative program that recognizes and certifies faith communities who have made their grounds friendly to wildlife. The NWF collaborates with the Montgomery County RainScapes Rewards program to provide financial and technical assistance for implementing storm water management solutions. We knew immediately that Geneva could and should participate, since we have a pretty bad storm water runoff problem. Why do we care? Because storm water runoff picks up pollutants as it flows across parking lots and street. When the water hits the creek, it is hot, polluted, and flowing very fast. Over the last 50 years, Cabin John Creek has been inundated with this polluted water over and over again and it shows. It is dramatically less healthy than it was 50 years ago. But we are committed to reducing future damage by implementing storm water management enhancements, and have installed multiple projects on our property to do this.

*FoCJC does not endorse any specific person or product.*

**Friends of Cabin John Creek ♦ [www.cabinjohncreek.org](http://www.cabinjohncreek.org)**