



RAIN GARDENS

On the Colonial Church site, there are unfortunately only a handful of strong locations for rain gardens. However, if they were to be implemented, they would certainly help improve local water quality by reducing the amount of stormwater runoff that reaches nearby water resources. Rain gardens also help to recharge the groundwater where the soils are conducive to infiltration, which helps to keep lake and stream levels high.

Rain gardens can be planted with deep-rooted perennial species including native grasses and perennials. These plants help build healthy soil and aid in the stormwater runoff infiltrating into the subsoils. Rain gardens require maintenance to remove weeds that are introduced in the stormwater as it flows in, but when planted densely to avoid open soil, the maintenance should be no more than a typical perennial planting.

As the Church considers future earthwork surrounding the building, it is worthwhile to investigate the appropriate siting of rain gardens to both enhance the landscape and improve local water quality.

HEALTHY POND BUFFER

For several years folks at Colonial Church have worked hard to create and maintain a beautiful buffer surrounding the pond. Buffers help local water quality by dramatically reducing the amount of harmful nutrients that run off our turf areas and reach the water bodies. These nutrients, namely phosphorus and nitrogen, can lead to algae blooms, which can impair fishing, swimming, or boating. On occasion, algae blooms are harmful to people, pets, and wildlife.

The buffer surrounding Colonial Church's pond is in very good shape and not only helps keep the water cleaner but is an ecological amenity, attracting pollinators and other animal species. To further enhance the pond buffer, it is recommended that open areas of soil be seeded with native grasses such as prairie dropseed, little bluestem, or blue grama.

VEGETATED SWALE

Create vegetated swale to catch runoff from roof peaks and downspouts to combat the existing erosion conditions on this steeply-sloped hill.

TREE AND SHRUB PLANTING

Introduce native trees and shrubs to enhance wildlife habitat and combat invasive plants such as crown vetch.

Species Including:

- Tamarack
- Alder
- Pussy Willow
- Redtwig dogwood

LEGEND

- Soil Settlement
- Tree & Shrub Plantings
- Pond Buffer Enhancement
- Regrading for Drainage
- Rain Garden
- Concrete/Asphalt Removal and Regrading
- Vegetative Swale
- Mixed Grass Plantings
- Property Boundary

COLONIAL CHURCH CONCEPT PLAN

SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPE MASTER PLAN

