

June 2015 Update –

New Planting Required Due To Parking Lot Winter Salt Flowing Into The Rain Garden Installation, Negative Impact On Plants.

“We planted Hibiscus, silky dogwood, Buttonbush, Panic grasses. All have a bit of tolerance to salt. We watered everything in really well, but the heat & sun will make the plants droop during the day - especially the hibiscus. They should pop back up at night. Please have the church water the new plants every other day (unless we get rain).

We also dug a 3' trench in the middle of the garden and filled with stone. It's covered with soil and there are 3 grayish boulders where the trench is. We added additional River rock to the inflow and outflow - 5" stones to help slow the flow of rainwater. The garden has been mulched.

If salting continues to be method (versus sand) for managing snow / ice in the parking lot and driveway, there's not much we can do. The Blackeyed susan, Echinacae and Joe pyeweed are all stunted by salt in the soil. The Joe pyeweed should be 3-4' tall right now and even taller (4-5') next year....

Why NJTF Used COMPOST As Planting Medium At St. Paul's ?

The Rutgers Rain Garden Manual recommends using compost. Sometimes, we mix it with sand. For this garden, I wanted folks to see how easy it is to install a rain garden, and that you don't need several deliveries of materials to build one in their own yard.

Why compost is good –

- It saves water by helping the soil hold moisture. It benefits the environment by recycling organic matter while conserving landfill space.
- It reduces/eliminates the need for petrochemical fertilizers.
- Compost provides a slow –release of nutrients and beneficial microbes to the soil, which improves plant growth.
- It increases soil organic matter, and encourages healthy root structure.
- Compost helps balance soil pH and moderates soil temperatures when used with mulch.

Original 2014 PLANT LIST FOR ST. PAUL'S RAIN GARDEN

7 - Eupatorium, Joepyeweed

10 - Lobelia cardinalis, Cardinal flower

7 – Lobelia siphilitica, Blue lobelia

5 - Panicum virgatum, Switchgrass

9 - Rudbeckia hirta, Blackeyed Susan

3 - Shallow sedge, Carex lurida

9 - Echinacea, Purple coneflower

** 3 Swamp Rose Mallow, Hibiscus (from my gardens) :-)

Supplies: Compost, 3 - 5" River Rock, Mulch

What a NICE day! We had 3 great volunteers who stayed with us through the excavation

and planting! They were so enjoyable!
Crew & I had a great
time!

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Lisa Simms

NJTF

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