

Spring Rain Garden Workday Event

Hosted by East Petersburg Borough and The Little Conestoga Watershed Alliance

May 11th, 2024

Time: 09:00AM- 12:00PM

Location: East Petersburg Rain Garden

2899 Graystone Rd East Petersburg, PA 17520

RAIN GARDEN
In a garden of native plants, herbaceous grasses and wildflowers planted in a small depression far temporarily hold excess water in this case from the building's roof. This allows the water to soak into the ground and filter out treatment pollutants and nutrients, while providing habitats habitat for wildlife and pollinators.

WILDFLOWER PLANTING AREAS
Annoyed with weeds and grasses that crowd out native plants, and/or for a wide range of pollinating insects such as bees and butterflies. The bees and butterflies serve as honey and food sources for many insect species, such as the monarch butterfly. These areas also add visual appeal with a variety of flower color and leaf textures.

RIPARIAN BUFFER
This vegetated area along the Little Conestoga Creek controls silt, debris and debris that will help reduce the amount of sediment and debris that enters the stream, filter pollutants out of stormwater runoff, and provide wildlife habitat.

What's Here in the Garden?
• No more mowdown: This area is kept uncut to provide ecological benefits, such as providing habitat and reducing runoff, all while reducing lawn maintenance costs.
• Shade Gardens (understory planting) areas underneath a maple tree and behind the mobile food stand building contain shade loving plants, such as ferns and coral bells, because of limited sunlight.

Our Native Plants
Plants that can be found in the garden:
• American Sycamore • Purple Coneflower
• Yucca tree • Common Nettle
• Black-cherry • New England Aster
• Black-eyed Susan • Sensitive Fern
Native plants are adapted to the local climate and soil conditions where they naturally occur, and provide the following benefits:
• Do not require fertilizers and require fewer pesticides
• Require less water
• Provide food and shelter for wildlife
• Increase biodiversity and stewardship of our natural heritage

Our Wildlife
Wildlife that can be found in the garden:
• Monarch butterfly (in various phases of metamorphosis)
• Kingfisher
• Canada goose
• White-tailed deer
• Mallard duck
• Sparrows
• American Goldfinch

How Did This Happen?
The East Petersburg Community Garden was established in November 2017 to serve as a demonstration area for the residents of East Petersburg to observe water quality best management practices that they can replicate at home. The site was previously used as a water treatment plant (waste treatment plant), however the building is not currently in use. Originally the landscape surrounding the building was managed using conventional landscape management practices and consisted primarily of mowed lawn areas. This resulted in a high maintenance, low diversity landscape with few environmental benefits. The Borough and interested project partners envisioned changes that have converted a conventional landscape into an ecologically diverse garden with beneficial water quality and wildlife habitat improvements.

Who Made This Happen?
SIERRA CLUB, East Petersburg BOROUGH, WATER WEEK, LITTLE CONESTOGA WATERSHED ALLIANCE, Land STEWARDS

EAST PETERSBURG Community Garden
IMPROVING WATER QUALITY AND WILDLIFE HABITAT IN EAST PETERSBURG AND THE LITTLE CONESTOGA CREEK WATERSHED

Activities to Include: Plant identification, invasive plant management and tree tube removal.

Things to bring: Bug spray, suntan lotion, camera, preferred garden tools and gloves. Yard waste bags will be provided.



Scan using your smartphone to learn about **Little Conestoga Watershed Alliance**



Scan using your smartphone to learn about **East Petersburg's** efforts to improve water quality