

# Village of Fort Edward

## INTRODUCING HOMEOWNERS TO GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE



Edward. As a designated MS4 community, the Village must actively work to reduce stormwater pollution within its MS4 system. The Village has been doing this through a six-element program that includes,

1. Public Education and Outreach
2. Public Participation
3. Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination
4. Construction Site Runoff Control
5. Post-Construction Runoff Control
6. Municipal Pollution Prevention and Good Housekeeping

This mailing is part of the Village's Public Education and Outreach Program, which aims at educating homeowners and business owners on the things you can do to help the Village reduce pollution in the stormwater entering into the MS4. As a property owner, you have the opportunity to reduce stormwater pollution by implementing green infrastructure practices on your own property. Green infrastructure practices not only help improve water quality, but will provide beautiful landscaping features and urban habitat for birds, pollinators, and butterflies.



**For more information, please contact**

*Village of Fort Edward*

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Monday through Friday  
8:00 am to 4:00 pm  
Phone (518) 747-4023



Department of  
Environmental  
Conservation



### WHAT IS A MUNICIPAL SEPARATE STORM SEWER SYSTEM (MS4) PROGRAM?

An MS4 is the system in municipal streets that takes in stormwater runoff and discharges it into the nearest surface water. Often times, this water is polluted and discharged without treatment. To reduce pollution within stormwater, the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation designated a number of communities as small MS4 communities, including the Village of Fort

# How Can I Help with Green Infrastructure

**Green infrastructure practices mimic nature to help retain and infiltrate stormwater runoff, instead of allowing it to enter into local surface waters.**

By utilizing green infrastructure practices throughout your yard and property you can help the Village reduce the amount of stormwater in the streets and help protect the water quality of the Hudson River. It can be as simple as planting a garden, creating a new patio, switching your fertilizer or collecting runoff from your roof.

## Rain Gardens

Rain gardens are landscaped depressions that are designed to capture and filter stormwater runoff from impervious surfaces. Planting a rain garden in your yard will decrease the amount of pollution entering into the Hudson River. When planting your rain garden remember to keep it at least 10 feet from any foundations and direct any downspouts towards the garden. Naturally sloping or depressed areas in your yard are a good place to start. A typical homeowner rain garden is 100-300 sq. ft. in size and 4-8 inches deep. Make sure to use native plants when planting your garden, as they require less maintenance than non-natives.

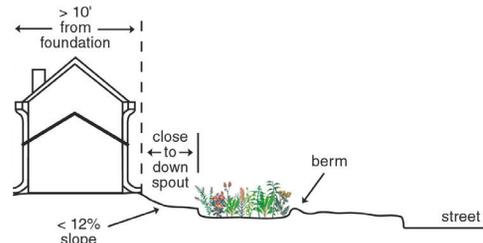


Figure from University of Wisconsin Extension and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

## Permeable Pavers

Permeable pavers allow water to infiltrate into the ground, unlike impermeable surfaces such as asphalt and pavement. By investing in permeable surfaces, stormwater runoff is reduced considerably, which aids in reduced street flooding and pollutants entering into the Hudson River. There are several attractive choices for permeable surfaces that can include grass or stone to aid in infiltration.



Photos courtesy of the Lake George Association

## Phosphorus Free Fertilizer

Phosphorus is an essential nutrient for plant growth, but too much can cause excess algae to grow and blanket the water with a green goo. What's more, the majority of lawns already contain the necessary amount of phosphorus for grass to grow. It's because of this that NYS enacted a law in 2012 that requires phosphorus-free fertilizer be used on all lawns unless you are establishing a new lawn or a soil test shows that your lawn doesn't have enough phosphorus. In addition, you may not apply fertilizer within 20 feet of a waterbody unless there is a 10 foot plant buffer. You may also not apply fertilizer from December 1 - April 1. An additional good practice is to use a spreader guard. For more information on the Dishwater Detergent and Nutrient Runoff Law, visit [www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/67239.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/67239.html).

## Rain Barrels

Rain barrels can be connected to your home's downspout to catch runoff from your roof and store it instead of letting it enter into the storm drains. You can use the water in the rain barrel to water your landscaping, which will decrease your use of tap water. You can buy a rain barrel at a local retail store or make your own with a 50 gallon barrel (food grade only) and some hardware.

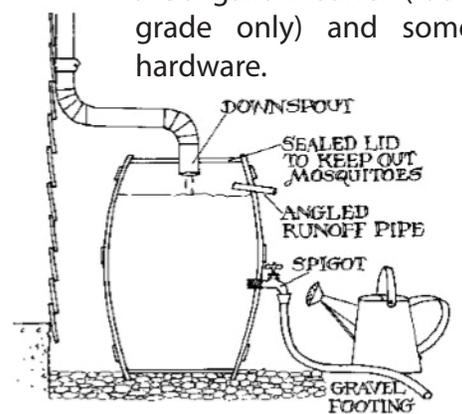


Image courtesy of LIDstormwater.net