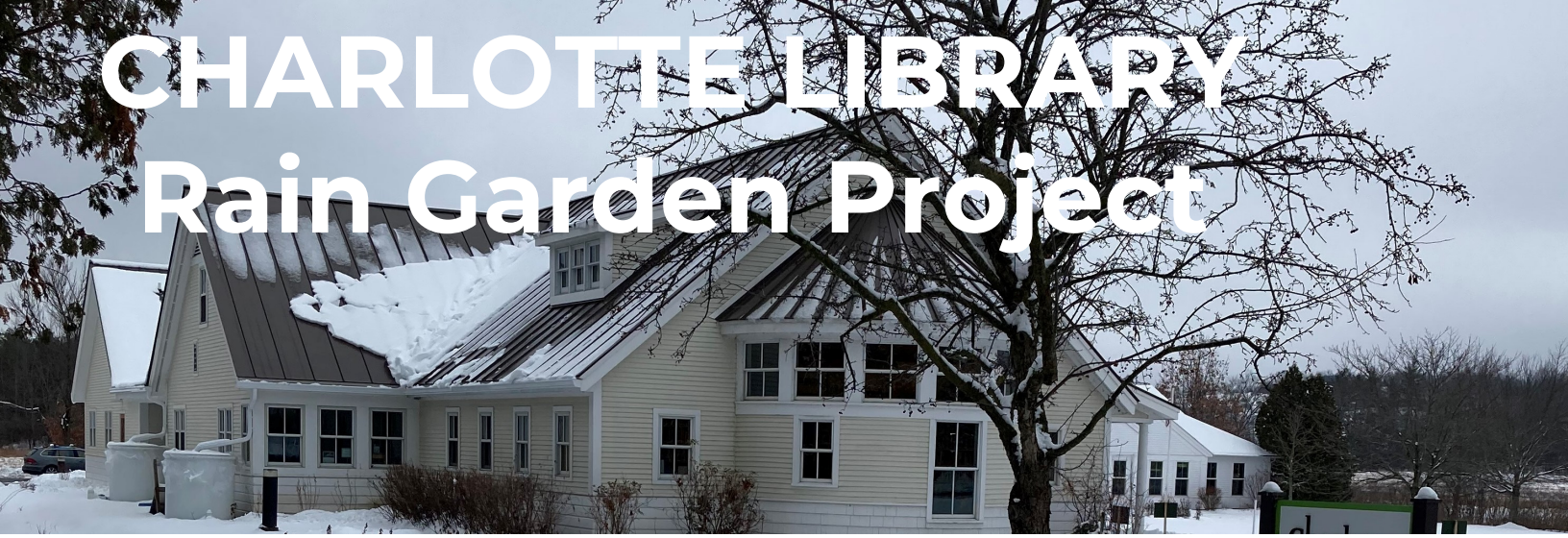


CHARLOTTE LIBRARY

Rain Garden Project



HOW WE GOT STARTED



Ahead of the Storm

Ahead of the Storm (AOTS) is a tri-town stewardship project involving common watersheds, most notably the LaPlatte watershed. AOTS was established to bring easy-to-use water quality and flood resilience assessment tools and local science-based information to landowners. Our current 15 plus demonstration sites in Shelburne, Charlotte and Hinesburg showcase OCPs that address climate change impacts on properties.



Why a Rain Garden?

Did you know that rain runoff from our properties directly affects Lake Champlain? And not in a good way. If your house roof is 1,000 square feet, the runoff down onto the driveway and into ditches is 623 gallons for every 1 inch of rain. Extreme weather events and changing climate conditions have resulted in increased storm water runoff in agricultural and residential settings.



Why the Library?

The Charlotte Library is a founding member of the Ahead of the Storm project. Our in-house collection includes a variety of resources, print & other types, that relate to water quality and lake health issues. We recently added a Conservation Corner to this collection, created in partnership with the town's conservation commission and energy committee.

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PLAN IN ACTION



Permaculture in Practice

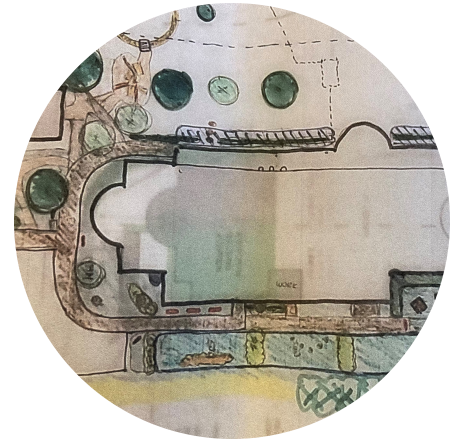
Permaculture's common-sense design principles aim to increase sustainability, through for example, smart use of energy and minimizing waste.

We used basic landscaping design skills and use them along with holistic permaculture principles to develop an overall site plan and planting plan for enhancing educational opportunities in the Library's immediate outdoor space (including a restored wetland on the east side).



Digging In

A rain garden is a garden of native shrubs, perennials, and flowers planted in a small depression, which is generally formed on a natural slope. It is designed to temporarily hold and soak in rain water runoff that flows from roofs, driveways, patios or lawns. Rain gardens are effective in removing up to 90% of nutrients and chemicals and up to 80% of sediments from the rainwater runoff.



Plans for Future

Signage: Over 25 different species of perennials and shrubs make up the library rain garden. We plan to install comprehensive signage to ID these plants to complete the demonstration garden.

Education: Following up on our previous successful programs, we plan plan & design sessions as well as children's programs around the new garden space