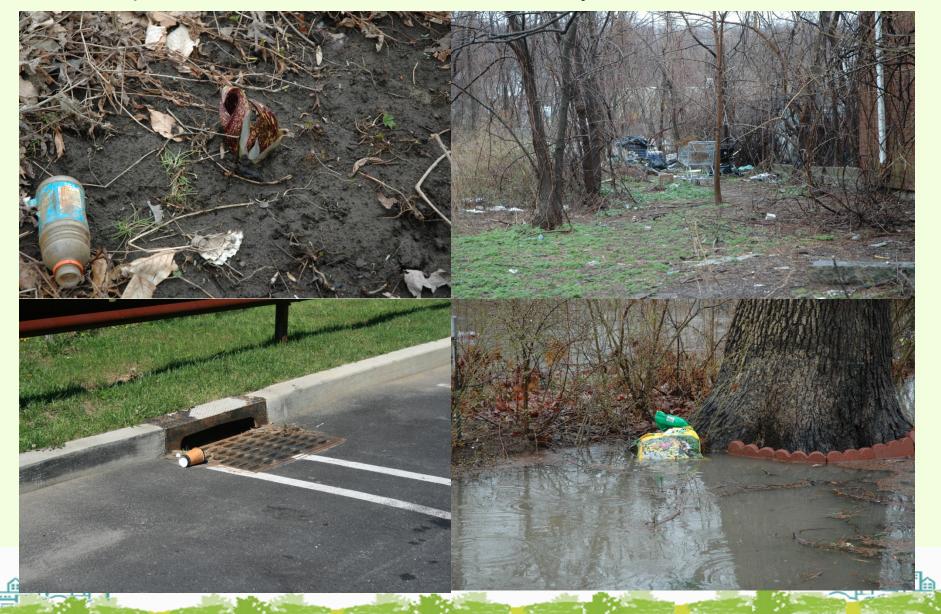
Groundwork Hudson Valley—Saw Mill River Coalition ... A bit of stormwater on the Saw Mill River, NY



Trash & pollutants from a storm = stormwater—maybe should be "stormtrash"



The Great Saw Mill River Clean-up—Building Stewards



Playing "catch-up"
--Debris removal

versus

Preventative "Medicine"
--"Free-A-Tree
Invasive Vine Removal



Connecting stormwater and flooding...



...to local legislative "rules" & Green Infrastructure projects

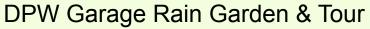


Stormwater Roundtables





IMBYs—In-My-BackYard Projects: Rain gardens









Bus Shelter Rain Garden



Group's garden plan curbs flooding, pollution

If you drive down Columbus Avenue in Mount Pleasant, you'll see a recently planted garden in front of the highway department.

It has freshly dug flowers and shrubs in two different areas, with short rock walls on the borders.

But it's not just a garden it's a rain garden.

When I first heard that, I wondered if I heard right. Were they growing rain there? You know, little droplets raised to be a pelting, then maybe a torrent.

No such luck. But this gar- kinds of situations. den serves a much more important function than most gardens. It will look nice in full bloom, but it doesn't need to be flowering to be effective.

This garden's primary function is to keep the Saw Mill River from flooding and to keep pollution out of that nearby waterway.

"It's way less expensive drainage system," said Anne-Marie Mitroff, director of river programs for Groundwork Hudson Valley and the Saw stormwater controls. Mill River Coalition

same thing," she said. "In fact, the state's Hudson River Esit's probably doing the job better."



GREG CLARY Earth Watch

Mitroff's group wants to show municipalities and others that these kinds of natural solutions can solve stormwater run-off problems - including flooding - in all

"We really want to get planning boards and the other people who decide on projects to know enough about rain gardens and stormwater pollution prevention that when they review plans that a developer brings them, they can ask questions and make suggestions," Mitroff said.

The group got a three-year than a big complicated \$1 million grant from the Environmental Protection Agency to work on a variety programs, including

They put some of that moncreate models in a fairly ur- down into the stone under- town.



Greg Clary/The Journal News

A team of stone wall builders from Groundwork Hudson Valley set up the borders for a rain garden outside the Mount Pleasant Highway Department on Wednesday. The organization is using federal and state grant money to provide the town with natural stormwater control to cut down on flooding and pollution in the nearby Saw Mill River.

banized environment that can neath the top soil. There's an too much concrete.

At the highway garage, a drainage design. 7,500-square-foot roof will ed to the rain garden, irrigat-

cut down on flooding and oth- overflow pipe, but Mitroff er water problems caused by doesn't expect it to get much use because of the garden's

"It's basically doing the ey together with \$50,000 from now drain to leaders connect- Pleasant's highway superintendent, liked the idea tuary program to show how to ing the plants and percolating enough to push it with the

"I think it's a good thing for the environment," he said. "And I think it's good for the community to see this one and for people to think about Peter Sciliano, Mount doing something like it on their properties."

A healthy by-product of this project was unearthing and removing an old, leaky oil

On the Web

Additional demonstration sites are in the works and instructional information will be available at the sites and online at the coalition website: www.sawmillrivercoalition.org.

tank on the very site where the garden was planned. That delayed the planting a little, but the town got rid of contaminated soil in the process.

The gardens can be done relatively cheaply, Mitroff said. This project - with beds in a shady and in a sunny area to show two different examples - cost about \$3,500.

Her group is hosting a roundtable on Oct. 23 for municipalities to learn more about these options. And Mitroff is looking for more opportunities to do rain gardens along the Saw Mill River.

"If we could put enough of these in, we would cut down the (flash flooding)," she said. "And we would reduce the pollution like crazy because the gardens are very effective filters."

Reach Greg Clary at gclarv@lohud.com. I am told...I forget. I see...I remember. I do...I understand.

-Chinese proverb

