

Baltimore Street Rain Garden, WV

On May 17 the Opequon Creek Project Team (OCPT) was joined by Master Gardeners and members of Hedgesville Girl Scout Troop 442 to plant over 600 native trees, shrubs, flowers, and grasses on the site of the Baltimore Street rain garden, in Martinsburg, WV. Rain gardens are one way to help control rainwater runoff and return filtered water to the ground. Rainwaters flowing from impervious surfaces into storm water drains are a major contributor to pollution and flooding in our watershed.

This demonstration rain garden was a joint effort between WVDEP, OCPT and the City of Martinsburg. For rain gardens to have an impact on storm water runoff we need many individuals to take the initiative and install a rain garden on their property. OCPT is preparing a rain garden guide on our website which homeowners will be able to access to help them plan and install a rain garden.

The rain garden is between Baltimore Street and the parking lot next to the Kilmer Water Treatment Plant. WVDEP is working on a sign explaining the functional beauty of rain gardens. The sign will be erected next to the rain garden to explain how rain gardens work and how everyone can put a rain garden to work at their home.