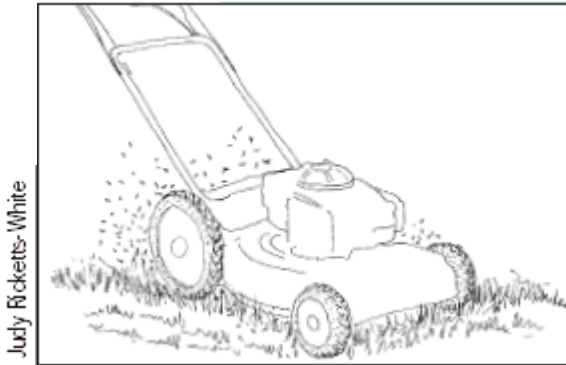


Conservation Landscaping for Water Quality - Water Conservation



Conservation Landscaping promotes landscape management techniques and philosophies that work with nature to reduce pollution and encourage wildlife habitat. It encourages yard care practices that include using less fertilizers and pesticides, reducing lawn areas, and utilizing native plants. The results are less overall maintenance and less water use.

Water Conservation

Water has become a limiting factor in many communities, especially during hot, dry spells. Landscaping to minimize watering includes careful planning, using drought resistant plant varieties, and improving soils or using mulches to help retain moisture in the soil. Many varieties of native or non-invasive non-native ornamental plants are adaptable to dry landscapes – sedums and potentillas, for instance. Many grasses and herbs also have low water needs.

Other sites have an abundance of water, or problems with excessive stormwater runoff causing flooding or erosion, and almost every home has gutters or some other system to direct roof runoff away from the foundation. Many of these situations can be changed from problems to benefits or attractive landscape features. Roof runoff can be stored in rain barrels for later use in watering nearby lawns and gardens. A larger conservation landscaping project would be changing landscape contours to create infiltration swales or rain gardens. These shallow basins or channels are planted with moisture-loving plants and roof or driveway runoff is directed into them so the water will filter into the ground rather than running off the property into the nearest storm drain or water body, creating new habitat areas and preventing water pollution problems.

To learn more or report possible illegal discharges to the storm drain system, call the Village of Beecher at (708) 946-2261.

(Source: Clean Water Fact Sheet, produced by NEMO and Sea Grant Connecticut)