



# ANNUAL AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE

October 15, 2007 to September 15, 2008

## CHIEF LOGAN TRAILHEAD



### Rain Gardens

Rain gardens are designed to capture rainwater. They are located in depressions and planted with vegetation selected to tolerate both wet and dry conditions. They mimic natural processes by allowing rainwater to soak into the ground or evaporate, rather than running directly and rapidly into nearby creeks and streams.

Runoff into stream before Trailhead Construction

**In the park**  
In 2002 the need for additional parking at the trailhead next to the entrance to Bath Community Activity Center Park became apparent. However, adding impervious surfaces, such as parking lots, increases erosion and risk of flooding. Rainwater runs off parking lot surfaces very quickly and this runoff increases the load on nearby streams.  
After considerable research Mike Ruzar, park administrator, decided to incorporate two rain gardens into the site design for the new parking area. In 2007 the site was contoured to route rainwater toward two new rain gardens. The rain gardens were designed by John Vittori.  
Rain garden basins were constructed with a sand / soil mix to provide a good home for plants and to allow water to soak into the ground. Overflow pipes were installed to prevent damage to the rain gardens during heavy rains.  
Finally, the rain gardens were planted with native species selected for water tolerance and the sun/shade balance at each location.

Botanical Name	Common Name
Carex graya	Burn Sedge
Carex stricta	Tussock Sedge
Carex subulocarpa	Fox Sedge
Rutifolia subumbellata	Sweet Back-eyed Susan
Its venosctor	Wild Iris
Tanacetum tomentosum	Tansey's Bush
Lobelia cardinalis	Red Cardinal Flower
Lobelia siphilitica	Great Blue Lobelia
Carex bromoides	Brown Runeword Sedge
Carex normalis	Spreading Owl Sedge
Alyrium flexifolium	Lady Fern
Oenothera biennis	Black-eyed Susan

**Benefits of Rain Gardens**  
Decreased flooding and erosion. Flooding and erosion occur when a large volume of rainwater overloads creeks and streams. By delaying rainwater runoff, rain gardens reduce the risk of flooding and erosion.  
Cleaner water. Rain gardens filter water runoff. After soaking through the soil, water leaving the rain garden is dramatically cleaner than the water that enters it. This means that streams, such as our own Yellow Creek will be cleaner. Rain gardens may also help to replenish ground water supplies.  
Beauty and habitat. Rain gardens are heavily planted, typically with a variety of native species. These plants add beauty to our environment and provide habitat to wild life. Once established, rain gardens require relatively little maintenance.  
No mosquitoes! Rain gardens retain water for no more than a few days. Because mosquitoes require standing water for at least 7 days to complete their life cycle, rain gardens do not harbor mosquitoes.

**Rain gardens at home?**  
Rain gardens are also a great way to catch runoff from roofs or driveways. Maintenance required is low and benefits are many. Proper plantings of native species provide the beauty of a garden, with flowers that attract butterflies and pollinators. Rain gardens also provide ecological benefits in helping to keep our streams healthy and our water clean.



Front Rain Garden (on Cleveland - Massillon Rd.)



Rain Gardens behind Chief Logan, near the creek

**How to learn more**  
An excellent Rain Garden Manual for Homeowners is available from the Geauga Soil and Water Conservation District at [www.gaugaoh.com](http://www.gaugaoh.com). More information about rain gardens and links to other sources can be found on the Friends of Yellow Creek website at [www.friendsofyellowcreek.org](http://www.friendsofyellowcreek.org).



### Category 24 – THE GREEN AWARD

#### HONORABLE MENTION

Bath Township – Chief Logan Trailhead