



BACKGROUND

The Camp Morgan Lodge in Washington sits atop a hill overlooking scenic Millen Pond, where a rain garden now adds to the scenery. The lodge is widely used as a community gathering spot and is the perfect setting for the rain garden as an outreach tool. Visiting community members will see how rain gardens can harness water that runs off of the roof and envision how a similar garden could work on their own properties.



The finished rain garden receives runoff from the roof of the Camp Morgan Lodge to water the perennial plants.

Jed Schwartz, Chairman of the Washington Conservation Commission, contacted the DES Soak Up the Rain (SOAK) team to see if the program could reach into his community. Jed and team walked the camp property to look for opportunities and decided that a rain garden at the Camp Morgan Lodge would be the best way to educate the community and to spread the word about the SOAK program.



Younger campers help to dig the rain garden and haul the dirt away.

CAMP MORGAN CAMPERS OF ALL AGES PITCH IN TO BUILD THE RAIN GARDEN

On a gorgeous August day, the SOAK team started the morning off with a short presentation to Millen Pond Association members on why stormwater runoff is a problem, how the program advises addressing it, and how the rain garden installation will help to protect the pond. Later in the morning, work began to excavate the 45 foot long rain garden. Before long, day-campers of all ages and their counselors came in groups to help dig and build the rain garden. At one point there were so many campers helping out that there weren't enough shovels to go around! After lunch, the crew completed the gardens with plantings and mulch.

SOAKING UP THE RAIN AROUND WASHINGTON

Thanks to the hard work of Jed, community volunteers, and the campers and counselors of Camp Morgan, the Washington rain garden will



Volunteers help the Soak Up the Rain team plant and mulch the rain garden.

serve as an attractive ambassador for continued SOAK projects in the Millen Pond watershed. It will also help protect the water quality of Millen Pond by soaking up an estimated 4,185 cubic feet of runoff, 5.58 pounds of sediment, 0.02 pounds of phosphorus, and 0.32 pounds of nitrogen each year.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

To learn how to build your own rain garden or to find out about other ways to manage stormwater on your property, explore the Soak Up the Rain NH website at www.soaknh.org.