



## Rain Garden Project at the Baker Free Library

Built to enhance the library grounds in Bow while providing an educational resource to patrons, this rain garden gathers water from the road, allowing it to soak into the ground instead of entering a nearby catch basin which feeds into the Turkey River, a tributary to the Merrimack River.



Members of the MCCD, Bow Conservation Commission, and Soak Up the Rain NH behind the new rain garden at the Baker Free Library in Bow

This project was a collaborative effort involving the Merrimack County Conservation District (MCCD), who provided labor through staff and volunteers as well as grant funds from the National Association of Conservation Districts, the Bow Conservation Commission, the Baker Free Library and the Soak Up the Rain New Hampshire program.

The plant list included marsh marigold (*Caltha palustris*), low bush blueberry (*Vaccinium angustifolium*), winterberry shrub (*Ilex verticillata*), New England Aster (*Symphotrichum novae-angliae*), New York ironweed (*Vernonia noveboracensis*), and columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*). Of course, Dig Safe was called at least 72 hours in advance to mark underground utilities!

It's estimated that this rain garden captures over 26,000 gallons of runoff per year, potentially preventing 37.8 pounds of sediment, 0.12 pounds of phosphorus, and almost a half-pound of nitrogen from running into the river each year.