



Your water.  
Your environment.  
Your voice.

## HIGHTSTOWN BOROUGH:

*You Can Help Reduce Flooding*

### Stormwater Management Options for Your Home

The easiest no-cost things for a homeowner to do are: 1) redirect downspouts to grassy areas and 2) aerate your lawn by pulling out small plugs of grass.

#### Rain Barrels

Rain barrels are containers that are placed under your gutter's downspout to collect rainwater from your roof. The water is used in your flower garden, to wipe down your car, rinse outdoor equipment or for other uses. Their function is two-fold: to save you from using drinking water in your outdoor yard to water your lawn or garden, and to collect stormwater from your roof so that it does not rush directly into a lake or stream. This also reduces the amount of pollution that water carries from oil on driveways, pesticides, dog waste and other sources, into Peddie Lake. Barrels are easy to install and maintain and can be purchased complete for as little as \$80. A less-costly option is to make your own. You can paint your rain barrels to provide a colorful decoration in your yard. Rain barrels are not a mosquito threat. To learn how to build and install your rain barrel, visit [http://water.rutgers.edu/Stormwater\\_Management/rainbarrels.html](http://water.rutgers.edu/Stormwater_Management/rainbarrels.html).



#### Rain Gardens

A rain garden is a landscaped, shallow ditch that allows stormwater to be collected and drain naturally into the ground, instead of running off and carrying pollution into Peddie Lake and Rocky Brook. Native plants and soil in rain gardens filter the pollutants out of stormwater as it is absorbed into the ground. Keeping water on your yard reduces flooding and replenishes groundwater. Depending upon size, one garden can filter and recharge around 25,000 gallons per year. In addition, native plants create a habitat for birds, butterflies, and beneficial insects. Using native plants provides a fairly low-maintenance garden. The Environmental Commission is available to assist you with individual advice. For more information on installing your own rain garden, view the Rain Garden Manual of New Jersey at: [npsnj.org/pages/native\\_plants\\_Rain\\_Gardens.html](http://npsnj.org/pages/native_plants_Rain_Gardens.html) and [http://water.rutgers.edu/Rain\\_Gardens/RGWebsite/raingardens.html](http://water.rutgers.edu/Rain_Gardens/RGWebsite/raingardens.html)

#### Pervious Pavement

Pervious pavement is a hard surface that allows water to penetrate through it, into the soil below. The water is naturally filtered and then recharged to the groundwater. It is used instead of traditional concrete, asphalt, or plastic. Impermeable pavement causes large amounts of stormwater runoff to carry pollution into



nearby water bodies, causing flooding problems, erosion of streambanks, growth of algae, dirty water and decline in the fish population. There are a number of options for using pervious pavement, which lessen these problems. You can use concrete modular pavers, and grid pavers. There are some types of concrete and asphalt that are semi-pervious. Gravel or stones can be used. New products are coming on the market regularly. When you repave your driveway or parking lot, consider pervious pavement as an option. For information on pervious pavement, visit [www.perviouspavement.org](http://www.perviouspavement.org) and [www.epa.gov/oaint/rnt/stormwater/pavers.htm](http://www.epa.gov/oaint/rnt/stormwater/pavers.htm)



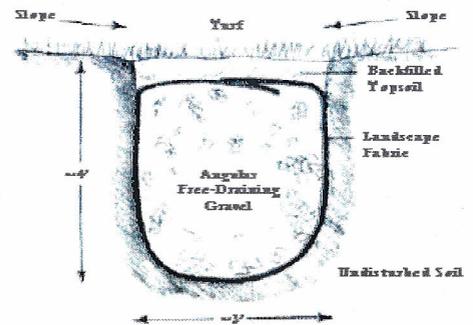
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## Dry Well

A dry well is an underground structure that you dig to disburse stormwater into the soil, alleviating flooding and recharging groundwater. It can be as simple as a gravel filled hole with a thin layer of grass on top. The hole fills with water and then allows slow drainage. The depth and fill material are important. It can contribute greatly to reducing both stormwater runoff and flooding in your yard. For more information on types of drywells, how they work, and installation, visit: [www.tredyffrin.org/pdf/publicworks/CH2-BMP3DryWell.pdf](http://www.tredyffrin.org/pdf/publicworks/CH2-BMP3DryWell.pdf)



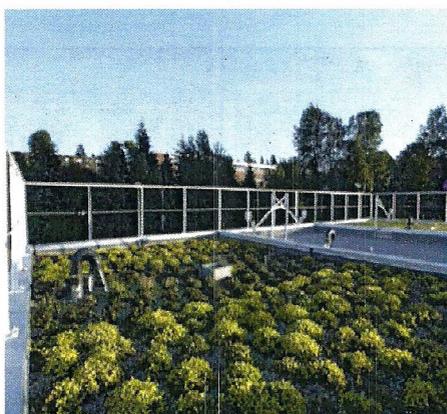
Cross-Section of a Dry Well

## Natural Landscaping

Natural landscaping refers to the use of native, i.e. historically local, vegetation rather than traditional lawn grass and ornamental plants. A site that is naturally and natively landscaped has root systems that usually extend down 3 to 10 feet or more, whereas the roots of lawn grass usually extend only about 3 to 4 inches. Because of this substantial difference, natural landscaping allows more runoff to be absorbed by the plants and filtered by the soil. In addition, these deep-rooted native plants stabilize soils, prevent erosion, and provide natural habitats for birds and butterflies. They are also practical. Reduced maintenance saves money and work, making your life easier. For the best results, tailor these plants to individual site characteristics like soil type, drainage patterns, and sun exposure. For more information on natural landscaping, visit: [npsnj.org](http://npsnj.org) and <http://www.epa.gov/grtlakes/greenacres/nativeplants/factsht.html#Native%20Plant>.



## Green Roofs



Green Roofs are engineered and designed roofs on buildings that have soil and are planted. They serve a number of important functions — capturing stormwater, reducing the heat reflected from excessive asphalt and buildings, creating habitat for birds and insects, filtering pollution from air and rain, and creating a pleasant outdoor space.. While initial costs may be high, costing between \$10-\$40 per sq. ft., depending on the depth of the soil, green roofs offer much more insulation than conventional roofs. This saves money by reducing energy demands for cooling and heating by as much as 30%. They can extend the practical life span of the roof by 2-3 times. If you are constructing a new home or need your roof replaced, consider putting in a green roof. For more information, visit [www.epa.gov/heatisd/mitigation/greenroofs.htm](http://www.epa.gov/heatisd/mitigation/greenroofs.htm) or [www.greenroofs.org](http://www.greenroofs.org).