

## Rainwater Harvesting

A rain barrel is a container used to collect and store rainwater from your roof that would otherwise run off onto lawns or be diverted to a storm drain. The collected water in the rain barrel can be used for watering lawns and gardens, which helps to reduce water consumption and pollution. Rain barrels work day and night to keep rainwater out of storm drains and sewers. Why is this important? Every time it rains, unabsorbed water rushes to storm drains and directly into our local waterways. Often times this runoff carries with it harmful pollutants it has picked up along the way.



## Want More Information?

There are so many other ways to add backyard conservation initiatives to your yard. To learn more about what you can do in your area, scan the QR code to be taken to the Backyard Conservation page on our website.



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## Backyard Conservation



"It's Not Hard to Have a  
Healthy Yard"



**SUMMIT**  
SOIL & WATER  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT



## Why Backyard Conservation?

Conservation practices can help increase food and shelter for birds and other wildlife, control soil erosion, reduce sediment in waterways, conserve water and improve water quality, inspire a stewardship ethic, and beautify the landscape.

Many backyard conservation practices are easy to use and can be adapted to any space.

Whether you have rural acreage, a suburban yard, or a city lot, you can help protect the environment and add beauty to your piece of the planet.



## Turf Reduction

Promote a healthy yard by reducing the amount of turf grass you take care of by planting a native plant garden. Native perennials are adapted to your area so once established, they require little care and maintenance. Since native plants thrive in your yard's soil, the need for fertilizer is reduced. They also crowd out weedy species so no need for herbicide. Native plants also attract beneficial insects, which will help keep pesky insects away and limit the need for pesticides. Native plants require less water, provide food and shelter for wildlife, add interest and curb appeal.



### Plants to Add to Your Yard

-  BLAZINGSTAR
-  CARDINAL FLOWER
-  PURPLE CONEFLOWER
-  BEE BALM
-  NEW ENGLAND ASTER
-  BUTTERFLY MILKWEED

## Composting

Composting is a great way to put the leaves and other woody debris found in your yard to good use. Compost is the natural process of decay that changes food waste and yard debris into a material that feeds the soil plants grow in. Compost can be used for all your planting needs. Compost is an excellent source of organic matter to add to your garden or potted plants. It helps improve soil structure and is a source of plant nutrients. Compost can also be used as a mulch material. Studies have shown that compost used as a mulch, or mixed with the top one-inch layer of soil, can help prevent some plant diseases, including some of those that cause damping of seedlings.

