

Green Innovation Grant Program

Project Title: Engineering Department Water Garden & Pavement Reduction

Grant Recipient: Town of Amherst

Location: Erie County, NY

Green Infrastructure Practice: Rain Gardens, Bioretention

EFC Grant Amount: \$127,576

Total Project Amount: \$141,946

GIGP ROUND 1



Project Completed 08/2011

Project Description:

The project site is located near an impaired stream segment of a local waterway, Ellicott Creek, whose runoff impacts water quality in the Niagara River and Great Lakes watersheds. The goals of the project were to reduce 20% of the impervious surface at an existing parking lot at the Town of Amherst, NY's Engineering Department and improve stormwater management at the facility by installing rain gardens.

Rain gardens are an effective means of removing pollutants and reducing stormwater runoff by

collecting water in planted depressions, where it collects during rain events. This water is then used by the vegetation via evapotranspiration, and infiltrated into the soil, resulting in reduced runoff volumes and lower pollutant loads.

The new green infrastructure installed at the Amherst site can treat approximately 4,800 cubic feet of stormwater runoff from the 2.4 acre area per storm.



Rain gardens were installed at a municipal parking lot in western New York State where they capture and filter stormwater runoff.

