

STORMWATER BMP SITES IN PAXTON CREEK WATERSHED

BMP Type: Londonderry School Rain Garden



Londonderry School Rain Garden

Name and Location: Rain garden at Londonderry School, 1800 Bamberger Road, Susquehanna Township.

Project Site Number and BMP Type Code: 4B

GPS Coordinates: Lat N40.29710 degrees, Long W76.87325 degrees

Site Features: In October, 2004 an Eagle rank project of Boy Scout Evan Murphy was a rain garden at Londonderry School This property that abuts U. S. Postal Service grounds in Susquehanna Township. Londonderry School is a progressive, private education facility built at relatively low cost with many “green” features such as use of recycled materials, and reuse of rooftop stormwater. Murphy’s rain garden was assisted by organizations such as Boy Scout Troop 360, Wildwood Lake Sanctuary, PCWEA, and others. The slightly L-shaped rain garden, a vegetated depression is located near the south end of the building, and west of a parking area and dumpsters. Overland runoff from the latter joins flows from a small spring in the garden. The garden consists of layers of amended soils, vegetation, and mulch that infiltrate and delay stormwater runoff, and partially remove pollutants during growing seasons. The garden initially contained 28 species of shrubs and herbaceous perennial vegetation. Expected pollutant removals in fully functioning rain garden are approximately: total suspended solids (mainly dirt), 85%; total phosphorus, 85%; nitrate, 30%. The pollutant removal efficiencies vary by season (greater removal in spring and summer), and by rain garden condition (declines if the garden soil pores clog, vegetation declines).

Site Directions: Bamberger Road intersects with Elmerton Avenue across from entrance to the Farm Show shuttle parking area, and the State Hospital grounds. Elmerton Avenue runs E-W between N. Cameron Street in Harrisburg, and Colonial Road in Lower Paxton Township. Bamberger Road is 1.5 mi from N. Progress. Although the rain garden is left (S) of the building, visitors should park in front of the building in a designated area, and report to the school office before going to the garden. Security requires this courtesy.