

STORMWATER BMP SITES IN PAXTON CREEK WATERSHED

BMP Types: St. Thomas Roasters Rain Garden & Rain Barrel



St. Thomas Roasters Rain Garden

Name and Location: Rain garden and rain barrel are located in the rear of St. Thomas Roasters Coffeehouse, 5951 Linglestown Road, Linglestown, Lower Paxton Township

Project Site Number and BMP Type Code: 59B, F

GPS Coordinates: Lat N40.34267 degrees, Long W76.79333 degrees

Site Features: Rain gardens are excavated shallow depressions in the landscape for capturing stormwater runoff, and partially treating its pollutants. Gardens function as layers (stones, soils, vegetation, mulch) that absorb stormwater (delay flows), and partially remove pollutants through vegetative and soil actions. The Roasters rain garden is a small, shallow (soils 1.5 feet deep), rectangular shaped site (290 sq ft) located in the back yard about 50 feet from the coffeehouse. The garden receives runoff from the roof of the coffeehouse, and some drainage from a dirt parking lane beside the coffeehouse. The garden was built in original, fluffed (aerated) soils about 2 feet deep. Some of the soils were removed, and used to construct a berm on 3 sides. The site has 5 species of shrubs and herbaceous perennial plants (switch grass). Expected pollutant removals in fully functioning rain gardens 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 garden condition (declines if soil voids clog, or vegetation dies). At the site also is a rain barrel that stores, and dispenses 50-gallons of stormwater runoff from a roof downspout. The barrel water can be used for garden watering, cleaning, and other purposes. Using local materials, this rain barrel was retrofitted from a Hershey Foods confectionery drum. This project of both the rain garden and barrel aims at raising public awareness about the importance of stormwater management, and demonstrates BMP implementation at a high profile facility. Further information is available on a sign at the site, and in a brochure at the coffeehouse.

Site Directions: St. Thomas Roasters Coffeehouse is located at 5951 Linglestown Road (Rt. 39) along the south side of the highway. It is about a block west of the roundabout intersection of Linglestown and North Mountain Roads, and approximately a mile from exit 72B off Interstate I-81.