



**IPSWICH RIVER  
WATERSHED  
ASSOCIATION**

*Connecting  
Communities from  
Source to Sea*

The Ipswich River Watershed serves as the voice of the Ipswich River. Through outreach, education, monitoring, and advocacy, we seek to connect the people, communities, and ecosystems integral to a healthy watershed.

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# Keeping Water Local at Riverbend

## Demonstration Project #3: Rain Garden and Drainage Improvements

The house at Riverbend had drainage problems not unlike those of many homeowners and businesses. The building is part way down a slope, and drainage from the driveway and slope flowed toward the building, at times causing dampness or wet conditions on the lower level.

The reconstruction of the building entry afforded us an opportunity to improve the drainage by installing a new perimeter drain along the front of the building, and to regrade that area so it slopes away from the house into a vegetated swale, instead of sloping toward the house. We also created two "rain gardens" – shallow basins that capture runoff from the driveway, and allow it to slowly seep into the ground.



*The front driveway area was regraded to allow rain to flow away from the house and in the rain garden.*

The rain gardens are planted with species that can tolerate occasional standing water. Because the soils around the building are sandy, there is good percolation into the soil naturally, so the rain gardens do not retain water for extended periods, as might be the case in areas with tighter (more clayey) soils.



*The two rain gardens allow rain to soak into the ground rather than running off and polluting streams and rivers.*

*The Keeping Water Local Demonstration Projects were funded by a generous grant from the Massachusetts Riverways Program, Department of Fish and Game. IRWA gratefully acknowledges the following individuals and businesses for their generous support of the Rain Garden: Agresource Inc., Allsopp Design, Corliss Wholesale Supply, Denise King Landscape Designs, Georgia Flood Design, H.L. Graham Inc. Civil Engineers, Nunan's Nursery, and all of our dedicated interns and volunteers.*