

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES INVENTORY  
OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN

PROJECT: Bedford Neighborhood Rain Garden

CATEGORY:  
Stormwater Management

PRACTICE:  
Rain Gardens

CONTACT:  
SOCWA Healthy Lawns and Gardens

3910 W Webster Road, Royal Oak, MI 48073

248-288-5150

OWNER: Village of Beverly Hills

PARTNERS:  
Fran Knorr and Carol Alexander (volunteers) & SOCWA

DESIGN: Fran Knorr and Carol Alexander

CONSTRUCTION: SOCWA Rain Garden Action Team

MAINTENANCE: Original plant material donated by neighbors.  
Garden beds maintained by volunteers.

DATE INITIATED: Fall 2004

INITIAL COST: \$50

MAINTENANCE COST: Neighbors donate their time to maintain  
and monitor the gardens/year

PROJECT

This Rain Garden project is located in a street island at the intersection of Bedford and Medford Streets in Beverly Hills. The land is owned by Beverly Hills and receives stormwater from the surrounding roads. Each of the small, 20 ft x 10 ft rain gardens are good models for front yard rain gardens. Native clay soil was removed to a depth of 1.5 - 2 feet, and replaced with a mix of SOCRRRA compost, some sand and original soil mixed. Mulch layer was placed on top of the soil after planting. Low-maintenance wildflowers and grasses (about 80% native species) were planted in the fall of 2004. The gardens enhance the attractiveness of the neighborhood and are visible to neighbors. As a result, they have provided an opportunity for community education in stormwater and water quality management techniques.



Street island prior to rain garden installation. Photo courtesy Lillian Dean, Coordinator, SOCWA Healthy Lawns & Gardens



One of the completed rain garden beds, fall 2004. Photo courtesy Lillian Dean, Coordinator, SOCWA Healthy Lawns & Gardens