Plant a tree–or many trees–for tomorrow.

Trees are masters of water uptake and carbon dioxide intake.

In a year, a 100-foot-tall tree can take up to 11,000 gallons of water and convert 48 pounds of carbon dioxide into 200 pounds of oxygen.

Native trees are adapted to our region and contribute to the ecosystem.

Trees provide innumerable benefits.

SUGGESTED RESOURCE

"Trees of Power" by Akiva Silver, Chelsea Green Publishing

Let nature do the work.

These gardening practices slow the flow of rainwater to our streams and lake.

They help to filter out excess nutrients and pollutants linked to harmful algal blooms.

Plants and trees absorb carbon dioxide and their deep roots and rich soil hold it.

SUGGESTED RESOURCES

www.resilience.org/stories/2015-09-02/why-not-start-today-backyard-carbon-sequestration-is-something-nearly- everyone-can-do

www.ecologicalgardening.net

www.sierraclub.org/sierra/2016-4-july-august/green-life/how-put-your-yard-work-for-climate

Too much rain? Change your yard and garden to make a difference.

A guide to improve soil, create rain gardens, bioswales & pollinator habitat

TOMPKINS COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
TOMPKINSCOUNTYNY.GOV/EMC

Healthy Soil

Healthy soil is the foundation of the garden. Try using compost, cover crops and other natural amendments such as fall leaves to add nutrients and carbon.

SUGGESTED RESOURCES

www.ccetompkins.org/gardening/composting

www.gardenista.com/posts/dirty-secrets-10-ways-to-improve-garden-soil/

Less Lawn, More Plants

Make part of the yard into a flower or vegetable garden.

**Use eco-grass to replace turf.
Decrease mowing, air pollution and noise.**

**Avoid fertilizers, insecticides and herbicides.
Promote vitality and save money.**

SUGGESTED RESOURCES

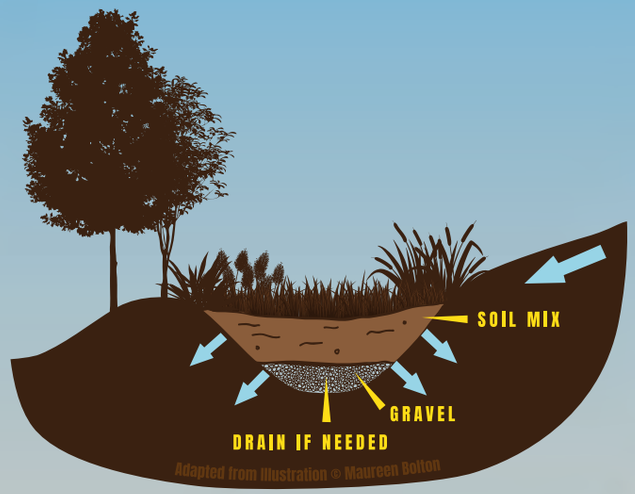
www.gilmour.com/grass-alternatives-backyard-lawn

www.WildOnes.com

Photo © DanSegal @ The Plantsman

Rain Gardens

Fill the concave garden with deep-rooted native flowers, grasses and shrubs to absorb and filter water. This also creates habitat for birds, butterflies and other pollinators.



SUGGESTED RESOURCES

Book: "Rain Gardens: Sustainable Landscaping for a Beautiful Yard and Healthy World" by Lynn Steiner & Ronald Domm, Voyageur Press

Video: How to Make a Raingarden
www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q2EoHBnCCII

www.ccetompkins.org/environment/water-conservation-quality

Bioswales

Bioswales are landscaped sponges designed to capture, filter and move stormwater from a parking lot or neighborhood roadway.

Photo CC Aaron Volkening, Flickr

SUGGESTED RESOURCES

nrcsolutions.org/bioswales

www.soils.org/discover-soils/soils-in-the-city/green-infrastructure/important-terms/rain-gardens-bioswales

Cornell Bioswale at Botanic Gardens:
www.news.cornell.edu/essentials/2014/10/foundation-studies-plantations-bioswale- garden

ESF stormwater information:
www.esf.edu/ ere/endreny/GICalculator/index.html

Rain Barrels

Catch and store rainwater in a rain barrel beneath your downspout.

SUGGESTED RESOURCES

www.americanrivers.org/threats-solutions/clean-water/green-infrastructure/rain-barrel- garden

www.epa.gov/soakuptherain/soak-rain-rain- barrels

www. ccetompkins.org/environment/water- conservation-quality/rain-barrel

Photo CC Aqua Mechanical, Flickr

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