



CEI NEWS

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CEI Raingardens Do More

For over a decade Comprehensive Environmental Inc. (CEI) has been designing and installing raingardens to help treat and infiltrate stormwater runoff. Stormwater runoff occurs when rain or snowmelt flows over streets, driveways and sidewalks instead of soaking into the ground. As it moves over impervious surfaces it can pick up contaminants like fertilizer, bacteria, dirt and debris and carry them into a storm drain or directly into a waterbody.



But raingardens can do more than just manage your typical nonpoint source pollutants mentioned above.

Over four years ago CEI designed and installed several Best Management Practices (BMPs) including a raingarden to help manage stormwater runoff entering Manchaug Pond, a 380-acre waterbody located in Sutton and Douglas, MA. Funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the MA Department of Environmental Protection, this grant was awarded to the Manchaug Pond Foundation to help improve the water quality of Manchaug Pond.

Several years after the installation of these raingardens a heavy rainstorm caused a tree to fall, breaking a utility pole and causing a transformer to drop from an upgradient utility pole. This resulted in approximately 29-gallons of non-PCB mineral oil dielectric fluid to spill on the adjacent roadway. It was estimated that the raingarden contained 75% of the oil spill with no material reaching Manchaug Pond.

CEI's raingarden contained the contaminated runoff, completely preventing it from entering Manchaug Pond. Generally designed to address typical nonpoint source pollution, raingardens can offer spill containment in the right situation as this one did for Manchaug Pond.

For more information on this project or on raingardens and stormwater management please contact Stephanie Hanson at 800.725.2550 or shanson@ceiengineers.com

CEI is an award winning civil and environmental engineering firm incorporated in 1987 serving the U.S Northeast.

Contact CEI Today at 800.725.2550

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