

Town of Milton

115 Federal St
Milton, DE 19968



www.ci.milton.de.us

Phone: 302-684-4110

Fax: 302-684-8999

March 2013

MEMORIAL PARK RAIN GARDEN

To be installed in the "island"

Behind Milton Public Library

The main parking area in Memorial Park is leased to the Division of Fish and Wildlife. Its purpose is to provide access to the boat launch and parking for licensed boaters and fishing enthusiasts. It also serves as a drive-through for visitors to the park.

The flat surface behind the library does not drain properly. This has the effect of leaving a "pond" in the roadway. The pond is not attractive and creates slippery or icy conditions.

The Department of Natural Resources (DNREC) provides grants and technical assistance for the construction of "rain gardens". Water can be channeled from the drive, into the island, where natural vegetation will thrive. The grant will be made possible through the support of the Milton Community Foundation. On February 21, there was a meeting with representatives of the Public Works Department, the Milton Community Foundation, DNREC and the University of Delaware. The practical considerations of a proposed rain garden were discussed.

Attached is a Site Plan provided by DNREC. Included are:

- Sidewalk by the parking spaces optional paid for by the Town. I would be willing to include it within the design plan, but the water quality benefit for a brick sidewalk would be marginal so don't think it would be something that the grant would pay for, especially that it also needs to cover the M&T raingarden. Permeable pavers are typically more expensive and require additional sub-base, so traditional brick would probably be the cheaper option. We can discuss further if it's something that the Town would like to explore in conjunction with the raingarden.
- Bollards around the western and southern side of the island to protect stone bed from cars and the raingarden area from pedestrians (combination of the Town's larger bollards and similar smaller ones)
- Mulched bed and shrubbery along the northern edge to reduce number of bollards but still deter parking.
- I changed the gravel bed to a more aesthetic stone bed, which would mimic a dry creek bed that would carry the water to the raingarden. (The meandering stone trench within the stone bed replaces the use of the pipe.) We could leave it all stone, or incorporate shrubs or blue flag iris within the bed area for some color.
- Within the raingarden itself, we were thinking that all or mostly all shrubs would help keep the area looking tidy and easier to maintain by avoiding the "is that a weed or a plant" dilemma.

Rain gardens require minimal maintenance. Some of the items to be provided by the town are already "in stock". Should Council approve, the garden can be completed before the Horseshoe Crab Festival.