RI Residential Rain Garden Training
March 31 & April 1, 2011
Summary of Survey Results

Of the 59 attendees, 46 returned a completed survey, giving a 78% response rate. Overall, the respondents felt that the workshop met their goals and that the information presented will be useful to them. They also indicated that the hands-on installation component of the workshop was the most beneficial and this component generated the most responses. Criticism was mostly focused on room logistics (e.g., several participants complained the room was cold) and additional comments/suggestions focused on increasing detail related to rain garden implementation (e.g., plant selection and care, site preparation). Based on these responses, it may be appropriate to consider an advanced rain gardening training opportunity in future planning efforts.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Section</th>
<th>Poor 1</th>
<th>Poor/Neutral 2</th>
<th>Neutral 3</th>
<th>Neutral/Excellent 4</th>
<th>Excellent 5</th>
<th>Mean</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stormwater in the City</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>2.6%</td>
<td>10.5%</td>
<td>44.7%</td>
<td>42.1%</td>
<td>4.26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a. Relevance and Usefulness</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>8.8%</td>
<td>38.2%</td>
<td>52.9%</td>
<td>4.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. Quality of Presentation</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>8.6%</td>
<td>34.3%</td>
<td>57.1%</td>
<td>4.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RI Regulation</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>5.3%</td>
<td>23.7%</td>
<td>26.3%</td>
<td>44.7%</td>
<td>4.11</td>
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<tr>
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<td>0%</td>
<td>8.6%</td>
<td>34.3%</td>
<td>57.1%</td>
<td>4.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rain Garden Overview and Design</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>2.3%</td>
<td>6.8%</td>
<td>27.3%</td>
<td>63.6%</td>
<td>4.52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>72.5%</td>
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<td>b. Quality of Presentation</td>
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<td>9.5%</td>
<td>31.0%</td>
<td>59.5%</td>
<td>4.5</td>
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<td>Walking Field Trip to Site</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>11.9%</td>
<td>33.3%</td>
<td>54.8%</td>
<td>4.43</td>
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<tr>
<td>Question</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. Did this workshop meet your expectations?</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>10. Do you anticipate installing at least 1 rain garden within the next year?</td>
<td>90.7%</td>
<td>9.3%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### 3. Which aspects of the workshop did you consider most beneficial?

Nearly all of the respondents answered this question. The majority of responses were related to the hands-on aspect of creating and maintaining a rain garden. Specifically, rain garden installation (including sizing, plant selection and maintenance) was noted as being the most beneficial aspect of the workshop. Five respondents answered with “everything” or “all of it”.

**Actual Responses:**
- N/A
- All
- Installing the rain garden
- The actual building of a rain garden - education and implementation
- Technical aspect-sizing and design
• Regulations and sizing
• Hands-on planting, would have been nice to have helped a little more in planning the design (but that was primarily due to moving the planting to Thursday)
• Hands on approach to installation of a rain garden
• The installation of the garden and plant selection/regulations
• Site installation/field trip; plant maintenance/selection
• The variety of speakers, the breadth of information (from very basic to more complicated/technical)
• Excellent for purpose of residential rain garden
• The rain garden overview and design, installation, and plant selection
• Sizing and soil test
• Speakers excellent-actual rain garden installation excellent
• Maintenance
• Literature
• Everything
• I consider all parts of the workshop beneficial
• Watching how to do a rain garden and the use of it
• Mulching
• Planting
• Rain garden overview
• Rain garden overview and design
• Sizing and installation
• Sizing and preparation
• The explaining of where and how was great
• Sizing, hands on installation
• Hands on very helpful, information on plants important and crucial
• Actually seeing the garden and where it is going to be
• Every part of the workshop was very interesting
• Steps to install the rain garden
• It was all helpful information
• All of it
• Hands on application
• Plant selection
• Details that made so much sense and continued education
• Overview and design, sizing, installation
• Sizing, installation, planting
• Explanation of what a rain garden is and its role
• Actual installation, design and plant selection
• Installation
• Where to place your rain garden

4. Which aspects of the workshop did you consider least beneficial?
Fifteen people left this answer completely blank, and several other respondents noted that all of the information was useful or put in none as an answer. There were very few redundant answers, although 5-6 participants made comments about the site logistics (e.g., room temperature, bathroom locations) and 4-5 participants commented on the relevancy of stormwater regulations and practices to this workshop. It is interesting to note that at least 2-3 people made comments on the rain garden installation components (e.g., planting, maintenance), although this aspect of the workshop was among the most beneficial in question one.

Actual responses:
- N/A
- None
- I consider none
- There wasn’t any
- To me all of it was beneficial
- Everything
- Some of the RI state regulations-don’t apply to me, but useful to know about RI’s great work!
- Some aspects got too involved in stormwater manual and regulations for this topic
- The speakers from Rutgers were great but didn’t seem to realize their audience was mostly landscape professionals.
- Siting of garden: would have liked a scenario with a basement. Not sure if everyone walked away knowing the “setbacks” because what we installed was next to a building. I know the criteria was discussed and I heard it, but maybe all did not.
- The management regulations only because I am not a professional
- Room very uncomfortable given need to keep heater blower off
- Planting outside-too cold
- Location of restrooms
- Cut down the tree
- All were beneficial
- Maintenance
- Planting
- Questions
- Sequence due to changes to accommodate the weather. Changing sequence made the whole presentation jumpy-not your fault, just a comment
- The topics that we recently went over in class
- Not being part of the rain garden installation
- Redundant questions of participants
- Stormwater solutions
- The bell
- Review of portions of bioretention practices
- Trip to installation site
6. What other information do you need pertaining to the topics that were discussed during this workshop?

The majority of participants either left this question blank (22), or responded with none or N/A (11). Of those who responded, more hands on training was the most common response (e.g., hands on BMP installation, large scale maintenance, site preparation, plants). Others indicated an interest in education, enforcement, and additional example rain gardens.

Actual responses:
- None
- N/A
- More hands on training with regard to BMP installation
- More educational workshops and help educating garden clubs on how to create youth ed. committees and projects, etc.
- Model ordinances
- Hands on
- See below-more detail!
- Rain garden
- The information that I got was excellent
- When more opportunities are available
- If required by board approval-how to enforce care and maintenance
- Can't think of any
- I need more info on large scale maintenance
- Pre-installation; soil excavation and fill preparation
- Could have provided more plant info
- Would like to see more examples of rain gardens-installation from start to finish
- Can't think of anything right now

7. Do you have any suggestions for topics or locations for future workshops or programs?

The majority of participants either left this question blank (19), or responded with the answer no or some derivative (11). 2-3 participants suggested a workshop in South County and another suggested a RIDOT facility. Additional topics for discussion varied widely (e.g., native plant design, pests and diseases, site selection, green roofs) and I suggest the individual responses be reviewed.

Actual responses:
- None
• This room is way too cold! It makes it hard to concentrate on the presentation
• Implement garden after all talks except maintenance
• No
• Save the Bay has extensive LID practices
• Hold one in South County
• Residential area would be beneficial
• Native plant design and alternative turf grass options
• RIDOT maintenance facility
• If required by board approval-how to enforce, care and maintenance
• PSNC,NRF (Preservation Society of Newport County, Newport Restoration Foundation)
• I am fine with all that
• No thank you
• Exercise to actually choose a site
• Plant pests and diseases
• More in depth sizing with examples-discussion on long term viability and aesthetics might be helpful
• Mostly urban areas!
• Not yet
• Rain garden in Hartford Heights
• Green roofs, wall gardens, etc.
• Coastal campus at URI, bioretention, WVTS installation, grading, material for BMP

8. How much would you be willing to spend for a registration fee for this training workshop if it was offered again?

The majority of participants answered this question: only 6 participants chose to leave it blank and an additional participant responded with N/A. The participant’s responses were divided nearly evenly among the three lower price points: 11 participants indicated they would be willing to pay between $0 and $25, 13 participants indicated they would be willing to pay between $25 and $50, and 10 participants indicated they would be willing to pay between $50 and $75. Only 2 participants indicated they would be willing to pay between $75 and $100 for the workshops. In the other category, 1 participant indicated he/she would pay up to $100 (actual response “$0-$100) and another was willing to pay more than $100 (actual response “$100-$150). Additional comments are noted below.
Actual responses:
- Between $0 and $25, lunch included
- Other: State employee
- Other: Free to local inner city residents for community beautification
- Other: Regulatory
- The free/low cost for information and more money for certification is a great idea to open training to different groups.

9. How did you find out about today’s program?

This question was answered by nearly all of the participants. Participants found out about the program through the web (NEMO), email (originating with NEMO), and by attending previous workshops. In addition, some participants were contacted directly by URI staff or through work. Ten participants identified themselves as part of Groundworks Providence.

Actual responses:
- NEMO email; Stormwater Manual Training
- Groundwork RI
- NEMO email
- Groundworks Providence
- RI NEMO email
- RIDEM
- Donna Williams (co-worker)
- URI NEMO newsletter
- Email sent to me at work
- Through NEMO
- URI stormwater solutions email
- Through stormwater manual workshop/RI Stormwater and NEMO website
- Kate Venturini at RINLA meeting
- RIDOT/NEMO
- Kate Venturini and RW Botanical Center
- Kate Venturini at Invasive Recertification
- Email from URI
- Email
- At work-RIDEM
- Advisor
- Work
- Informed by supervisor, asked to participate in planning
- Web, other workshops, email
- Kate Venturini
11. Do you have any other comments or suggestions?

Only 13 of the participants chose to provide an additional comment: 33 participants either left this question blank or answered with a no. The comments were generally positive, and reinforced some of the comments previously reported during this evaluation. Criticism was mostly aimed at lack of detail (e.g., more detailed planting information, rain garden preparation, maintenance) and suggests an advanced rain garden workshop may be appropriate.

Actual responses:

- I thought overall program was very good and leveled at many different levels of expertise. A bit below L.A. level – but I understand why. More in depth class would be good for more experience students would be appreciated.
- Great job with program. Very very helpful to me.
- Keep moving forward, you are assisting the Paradigm shift!
- Liked the break-up of lecture → garden install → lecture
- It was worth all the time
- Rain garden installation was less relevant because most of work was done before hand (I understand it was not practical) but this work was not very well explained.
- Include more specific plant recommendations. Green house didn’t seem appropriate for this time of year.
- RIDOT needs a long term maintenance plan for larger scale projects. In house maintenance would not be able to maintain the areas.
- I thought this was a great workshop – one of the best, most relevant and thorough workshops I’ve attended recently. I think the plant selection portion would have been better before the planting, but I liked having some follow up after the planting.
- We are hoping to have a similar workshop in Worcester! I think due to some presentations being rushed, it seemed the presenter was a bit compromised. We were rushed to keep track of the page, etc.
- More info on certification program
- It’s educational but I don’t see how this all will help me find a job or change landscape mainstream.
- Please provide Kate’s ppt via email or website
Demographic information
38 people provided answers to this optional question. Ten participants were part of Groundworks, Providence. Seven participants worked for municipalities or were part of an environmental commission. Seven participants worked in government or regulatory capacity. Other categories are identified below.

Actual Responses:
- Other – DOT Environmental Scientist
- Environmental Steward, Nursery Grower, Professional Landscaper, Other – Jobless
- Environmental Steward
- Other – Mass Audubon Society Gardener
- Landscape Designer
- 6 responses = Landscape Architect
- Professional Landscaper
- Professional Landscaper
- Environmental Steward, Professional Landscaper, Volunteer – Garden Club Civic Projects, Internship Assistance, etc.
- Other – Student (groundworks)
- Other – Regulator – RI DEM
- Other – DEM – Biologist, Wetlands
- Environmental Steward, Environmental Commission, Other – DEM regulatory
- Other – RIDEM Engineer (Regulator)
- Environmental Steward, Volunteer, Other – Municipal Official
- Extension Professional, Environmental Commission
- Environmental Steward
- Other – Homeowner
- Other – Government
- Other – Environmental Consultant
- Environmental Commission
- Other – Government Official
- Builder/Developer, Garden Center Operator, Environmental Steward, Volunteer, Other
- Other – Learning about the field
- Other – Groundworks, Providence
- Builder/Developer, Environmental Commission, Volunteer
- Environmental Steward
- Other – Town Employee
- Builder/Developer, Other – student
- Other – Municipal Official
- Other – Environmental Consultant
- Other – trainee
- Other – security guard