

## NHDES Launches New Soak Up the Rain Program to Help NH Residents Protect Clean Water

Concord, NH – Water pollution comes from everywhere, even your yard. Help is now available to community groups working with homeowners to fix erosion and water pollution problems on their lots caused by stormwater. To address these problems, the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) is excited to launch the Soak Up the Rain (SOAK) New Hampshire program.

This voluntary program helps property owners reduce pollution running into our local lakes, streams, and coastal waters. By installing rain gardens, which are shallow depressions planted with flowers and attractive shrubs, rain barrels, and other low-cost practices on their properties, the SOAK program helps residents take responsibility for clean water in their communities by literally soaking up the rain.

The SOAK program is managed by the NHDES Watershed Assistance Section. The program trains local organizations to work with property owners to install clean water practices. The new Soak Up the Rain website and Facebook page provide information, resources, and tools for individuals and organizations that want to learn how to soak up the rain on their properties and in their communities.

For more information, go to [soaknh.org](http://soaknh.org) or [facebook.com/SoakNH](https://facebook.com/SoakNH) or contact Jillian McCarthy at 271-8475.

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