Green Infrastructure

Walnut Street ‘rain garden’ thriving

One of the key elements of the Sustainability Plan adopted in 2018 by Pottstown Council and the Pottstown School Board is the removal of excess impervious surface to allow rainwater to be absorbed where it falls.

Thickly planted areas known as rain gardens can increase the absorption rate and help filter out pollutants from storm water run-off.

In 2015, as a demonstration project, Trees Inc. installed Pottstown’s first sidewalk rain garden along Walnut Street next to the Pottstown School District administration building. Four years later, it’s flourishing.

Pottstown’s first sidewalk rain garden was planted in May 2015 (above) along the Walnut Street side of the Pottstown School District administration building. A 9-foot-wide sidewalk was reduced in width by half, and four dead trees were removed (right) to make way for the rain garden, which contains water-absorbing plants and four pin oak trees.

Four years later, the trees and plants are growing well (top), absorbing and filtering rain water as they provide green on the street.

Commentary by Tom Hylton