



Figure 11. Make sure your rain garden surface ponding depth is deep enough to hold runoff, allowing it to gradually soak into the native soils.

The Magothy River Watershed Stewards Present

Mister Dawson Builds His Rain Gardens

Featuring

John Dawson as “John”

Nancy Curran as “Nancy”

Greg Grover as “Greg”

Suzanne Etgen as “The Photographer”

Megan Wickless as “Megan”





In the beginning...

I used my garden hose to lay out the dimensions of my rain garden. I planned on capturing water from two downspouts in one garden.



Things did not get off to a great start.

After a successful perc test of the soil, markings by Miss Utility showed the BGE power cable to my house (in red) running through the proposed garden area. Fortunately I missed hitting the cable by 18" when I dug the perc test hole!



A change of plan was necessary!

Lara Mulvaney of the Watershed Stewards Academy saved the day by suggesting that I build two rain gardens instead of one.



Let the Digging Begin!

On a bright October Saturday morning, our intrepid watershed steward began to excavate the first of two rain gardens in his front yard.



9 cubic yards of red clay needed to be excavated from the site.

The early colonists could have made bricks from the red clay the developer had used in rough grading my yard. Fortunately, a dumpster was delivered to expedite the removal of the clay

Work progressed and finally both gardens were excavated.



Next it was time for 8 cubic yards of bio-soil to be delivered and spread in the gardens.



Inlets from the downspouts and overflow outlets were constructed with river rock.



Planting day arrived and Nancy helped arrange the plants while Greg dug right in (literally) and began installing plants.



As planting progressed, executive decisions needed to be made.

Nancy and Greg discussed what time we should take a break for coffee and donuts.



I reminded everyone not to plant too close to the Comcast cable.



Soon the planting was nearly completed

Megan helps me plant the last “Little Henry” Itea. Notice our broad smiles!

Nancy added some bio-soil to finish the grade in the gardens.



As a finishing touch, we applied several inches of hardwood bark mulch and the job was done!



