

# TOWN OF CEDAR POINT AND TOWN OF CAPE CARTERET

## Simple Solutions: Native Landscaping and Tree Planting



### Native Landscaping and Tree Planting

Native landscaping includes the use of native plants that occur naturally in the central coastal region, having not been introduced by human action. Native plants have adapted to the geography, hydrology, and climate of the region. Planting trees can help reduce stormwater by intercepting it and allowing it to evaporate, as well as dissipating the energy of runoff.

They also provide shade, which helps keep surface temperatures lower, and they facilitate stormwater infiltration and groundwater recharge.

### Did you Know?

- Native trees and plants are hardy and well suited to our soils and climate
- Require little care once established as compared to non-natives
- Absorb and slow the flow of stormwater runoff
- Prevent erosion and increase soil permeability
- Are part of our coastal natural heritage



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### Benefits

Native plants provide beautiful, hardy, drought resistant and low maintenance landscapes while benefiting the environment. Native plants, once established, save time and money by eliminating or significantly reducing the need for fertilizers, pesticides, irrigation and lawn maintenance equipment. It is estimated that one hundred large mature trees intercept 1.2 million gallons of rainfall per year, and for every 5 percent tree cover added to a community, stormwater runoff is estimated to be reduced by approximately 2 percent. Properties with trees are estimated to be valued 5 to 15 percent higher than comparable properties without trees.

### Helpful Hints

Direct runoff to a native landscaped feature such as a rain garden to capture stormwater and create beautiful habitats. Rain gardens are designed landscape features that include depressions with native plants (*see rain garden fact sheet*).

### Build and Plant

- Use the landscape to help keep rain water on site. Incorporate the following actions into your landscaping plan build a rain garden, plant native trees, use natives shrubs and flowers, install a rain barrel to irrigate, direct downspouts to landscaped areas to absorb stormwater.
- Plant trees that maximize interception of rain
- Plant native trees with high growth rates



### References and Resources

- For native landscaping design ideas and plant lists applicable to your community go to: [www.ncsu.edu/goingnative/howto/index.html](http://www.ncsu.edu/goingnative/howto/index.html)
- Carteret Cooperative Extension: [www.carteret.ces.ncsu.edu](http://www.carteret.ces.ncsu.edu); search native plants
- NC Coastal Federation: [www.nccoast.org](http://www.nccoast.org); search native plants
- Water Forestry Resource Guide: [www.forestsforwatersheds.org](http://www.forestsforwatersheds.org)
- Local Nurseries and Landscape Professionals



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