

THE RAIN GARDEN – A WORK IN PROGRESS

The Rain Garden at the southern end of Laurel Park was originally installed and paid for by the Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection as a result of storm water quality mitigation requirements imposed by the State of Maryland on the Village along with the County and other municipalities.

Recently it has been determined that the original rain garden space is actually topographically higher so the runoff goes around it. This area has been designated a butterfly garden. While it currently contains many butterfly appropriate plants, more will be planted. The mulched path will be cleaned up and improved.

In the low area a new rain garden is being prepared. The road salt contaminated dirt has been removed. Highly porous and nutrient rich dirt will replace the old contaminated dirt. Finally, water loving plants will be planted in this small area. A trench was built to direct rain water from the eastern edge of the park to the rain garden. River rocks have been emplaced in the trench.

Jenny Reed of Natural Resources Design, an ecologically focused landscape design firm, is being consulted by the Garden Club of Chevy Chase which is underwriting this work. Along with her business, Jenny also works with the county Department of Environmental Protection, Watershed Planning and Monitoring.