

# Rain garden at Ottawa Stadium completed with community volunteers

*By Harbor Light News Staff on October 04, 2023*

Over the last several months, staff from Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council (TOMWC) and the City of Harbor Springs Department of Public Works worked together with community volunteers to clear a space in Harbor Springs' Ottawa Stadium parking lot for the site of a new rain garden.

The final touches were completed on September 22 as pollinators (bees, butterflies, and other native insects) buzzed overhead impatiently waiting to move into their new home. Staff and volunteers planted nearly 900 native plants that will not only benefit local wildlife, but will also help filter stormwater runoff before it reaches Little Traverse Bay and the surrounding watershed.

Layers of aggregate, soil, stone, and mulch will support native plant native plant species with deep roots, allowing water to soak into the ground after heavy rains and spread out, slowing it down before the excess runs into waterways. This helps to control the runoff of the pollutants into the water.

"The rain garden will capture runoff from stormwater that would normally flow into the bay, taking along with it vehicle oils, fertilizers, pesticides, debris, and anything else it picks up along the way. Now those pollutants will be filtered out by the rain garden before they reach our waters" said TOMWC's Restoration Manager Noah Jansen. "It's a step in the right direction for our watershed. A huge thank you to everyone who helped to complete this project."

This project was completed through partnership with the City of Harbor Springs, Petoskey-Harbor Springs Area Community Foundation, The Baiardi Family Foundation, and Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council.

For more information on rain gardens and how they benefit Northern Michigan's

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Volunteers helped install the rain garden at Ottawa Stadium (courtesy photo)

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