

Township of Moon

1000 Beaver Grade Road, Moon Township, Pennsylvania 15108
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Rain Gardens Enhance Moon Township's Memorial Garden



Moon Township, PA — If you're driving by the Moon Township Municipal Building this week, you'll notice that the dirt moving around the township flag area has given way to three beautiful new rain gardens circling the township memorial area.

This is where the township's piece of World Trade Center steel will be dedicated on the tenth anniversary of Sept. 11, and is also the focus of the township's Memorial Garden Redesign project, which revolves around an eco-friendly design concept.

On June 30, the redesign project came to life when Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania led a team of volunteers from Moon Township-based FedEx Ground to plant and mulch the newly-developed gardens. The rain garden development is an EarthSmart Outreach project made possible by FedEx and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

Beyond improving the aesthetics of the memorial garden, the rain gardens will function as a natural storm water solution at the site by absorbing rainwater runoff from Beaver Grade Road and surrounding parking areas.

Unlike regular landscaping islands, the three rain gardens are actually shallow basins planted with trees, shrubs and perennials native to the region. The gardens are designed to let rain water filter through the vegetation and soak slowly into the ground. As a storm water management technique, the rain gardens can help avoid overloading the local storm water drainage system, which can cause overflows into area waterways.

"In addition to creating a beautiful setting for our township memorials, the rain gardens are a practical solution for regular rain water overflows at the site," said Jeanne Creese, Moon Township manager. "We also plan to use this as a demonstration site to encourage residents and developers to consider rain gardens as a storm water solution for their own properties."

The rain gardens are part of Moon Township's Memorial Garden redesign, which is planned to include a memorial brick walkway, benches and other amenities when complete. Moon Township is offering a variety of ways for community members and organizations to get involved in the memorial garden redesign. For more information, call Fire Marshal Charlie Belgie at 412-262-5004.