

LOCAL CLIMATE IMPACTS

More intense and frequent storm events (all seasons)

- Increase of 55% since 1960
- More intense and variable precipitation is the main climate hazard in New England
- Increase likelihood of flooding and infrastructural damage

Increasing temperatures

- Increase of 2.9F since 1895
- Increase drought and agricultural loss
- Increase in health impacts like heat-related illness, pollution, and vector-borne disease

CLIMATE RESILIENCE

Climate resilience is the ability to anticipate, prepare for, and respond to hazardous events, trends, or disturbances related to climate.

WORKING FOR YOU

Canton has already completed multiple mitigation & adaptation initiatives, and has many more efforts ongoing or planned in the future

Please see the Sustainability Initiatives webpage for more information
<https://www.town.canton.ma.us/845/Sustainability-Initiatives>

WANT TO LEARN MORE?

Resiliency @ Home Workshops: View a recording and resource page on measures homeowners can take to make their yards more resilient to climate change.

<https://www.town.canton.ma.us/876/Resiliency-Home-Workshops>

Planning Department



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CLIMATE PROOFING YOUR YARD



CANTON WORKING FOR YOU

Climate change resiliency is an ongoing priority for Canton. The Town is working on identifying and mitigating climate risks, including flooding, extreme weather, and heat/drought impacts. Public and private properties will be affected more frequently by climate change.



Sunflower. Photo by Sean Kent

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Most lawns are constantly on life support all year as lawn grass is poorly adapted for our climate and require major additions of water, fertilizer, and chemical herbicides and pesticides.

Make Changes Slowly Following These Three Steps

- Where could you lose lawn and not miss it?
- Where do you want green ground cover, but not necessarily turf grass?
- Where is lawn good for kids playing tag, lounging in the sun, playing soccer, or other fun activities?

Areas Where You Keep Lawn

- Mow higher - Between 3-4 inches as opposed to 1-2 inches - as this creates deeper roots and requires less watering.
- Use a mulching mower to return nutrients to the grass so you can use less fertilizer.
- Aerate your soil in the fall.
- Replace thirsty grass with drought tolerant grass and clover.

GREEN GROUND COVER

Native ground covers requires less maintenance, fertilizer, and supplemental watering. Native plants support many species of native pollinators, caterpillars, and birds.

Consider site conditions, specifically sun exposure, moisture, and drainage

- Plant native mat-forming perennial ground cover, including Wild Strawberry in full sun, Pennsylvania Sedge in wetter areas, and Creeping Phlox in partial sun



New England Aster & Monarch Butterfly Photo by Sean Kent

RAIN BARRELS AND COMPOSTING

Water is a limited resource and the average household uses 250 gallons of water per day. One rain barrel is estimated to save as much as 1,700 gallons a year.

Composting reduces waste, enhances soil, and offers an affordable alternative to harmful fertilizers.

RAIN GARDENS & NATIVE PLANTS

A rain garden is a shallow area that uses plants and soil to absorb rain water from a roof, driveway, or street.

Why are Rain Gardens Important?

- Reduced demand on stormwater system
- Reduced potential for flash and severe flood events
- Provides habitat and resources for pollinators, birds, and other beneficial wildlife

Planting a Rain Garden

- Plant densely
- Choose native plants
- Consider plants' tolerance to water: the driest area is the edge of the garden, and the wettest is the middle
- Don't forget grasses and sedges, especially at water entry and exit points, to increase groundwater retention, stabilize soil, and reduce erosion

Building a rain garden isn't for everyone. Planting native, water-thirsty plants is a great step towards managing stormwater!