



WOONASQUATUCKET RIVER  
WATERSHED COUNCIL

# Planter Box

(RAIN BOXES)

## WHAT ARE THEY?

Rain boxes or planter boxes can be used to absorb diverted downspout storm water. The planters can be home-made, such as the one shown on this sheet, or bought at a local home materials supply store.

## BENEFITS:

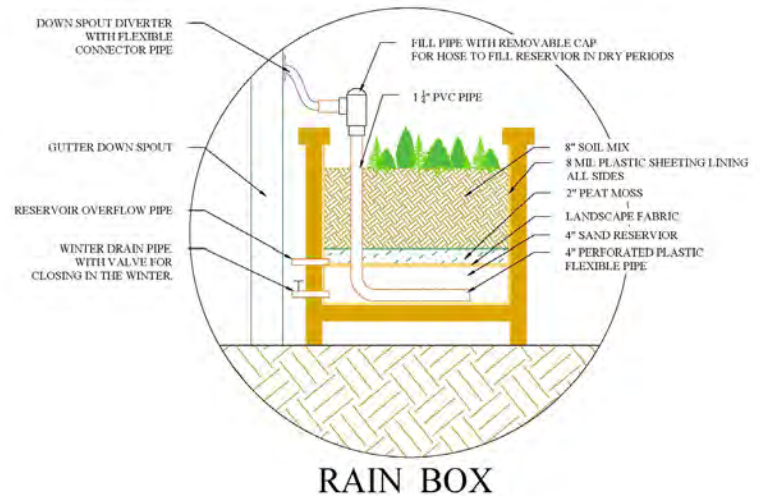
- \*Filters pollutants from downspout storm water runoff.
- \*A good water conservation technique.

## Use in Storm Water Management:

- \* Can be used on driveways or patios where diverting downspout storm water to a landscape area is difficult.
- \*Can be used in tandem with a rain barrel.

## INSTALLATION CONSIDERATIONS:

- \*The larger the planter, the more downspout storm water can be absorbed in the planter.
- \*The planter shown is a self-irrigating planter. Storm water is diverted from the downspout into a PVC fill pipe that directs the water into a “reservoir” at the bottom of the planter. The plants in the planter are watered by the roots absorbing water from the reservoir. The planter features an overflow pipe when the reservoir is filled; the fill pipe has a removable cap to allow the reservoir to be filled by a hose in dry periods.
- \*Gutters should be cleaned once/year to ensure that debris doesn't clog the downspout diverter.



### Self-Irrigating Planter Box Costs (for a 3' x 3' x 2' planter)

Plastic sheeting	\$ 2
PVC parts, flexible perforated pipe	\$16
Landscape fabric	\$ 2
Sand	\$ 4
Peat moss	\$ 4
Soil	\$ 7
Downspout diverter	<u>\$25</u>
Subtotal	\$60
Garden shop planter	<u>\$40-60</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$100-120</b>