

Middleton Rain Barrel Project

The Ipswich River, a water source for several towns and home to many plants and animals, is at its lowest level in 71 years with a flow less than 10% of average. The unusual winter, with only 9 inches of snow compared to an average of 43, has set southern New England up for probable drought conditions. You can prepare for this possibility by gathering precipitation into a rain barrel. Roofs are a significant source of water that homeowners could be tapping into to combat drought conditions.

Middleton's Stream Team, Farmers Market, Garden Club, Department of Public Works, Board of Health, and Conservation Commission are sponsoring a community program with The Great American Rain Barrel Company to offer their water-saving barrels for \$69, a 42% discount off the retail price. None of the sponsoring organizations will profit from this program.

With a downspout diverter for \$20 (\$25 for large), the barrel can capture 60 gallons of runoff from your roof in a very short time. For instance, one inch of rain on a 1000 square foot roof creates 620 gallons of runoff. Barrels are easily connected to downspouts and can significantly offset watering needs.

The rain barrels come in Forest Green, Earth Brown or Nantucket Gray. They are made of UV protected polyethylene and stand 39" tall by 24" wide with a wall thickness of 3/16", resulting in a rigid, heavy duty rain barrel that will last virtually forever. The barrel comes with overflow fittings, drain plug, screw on cover, screen filter, and a threaded spigot with a choice of two ports to use with either a watering can or garden hose.

The rain barrels can be seen at <http://www.greatamericanrainbarrel.com>. They will also be displayed at the Earth Day Festival on Sunday, April 29, 1-4 PM behind Memorial Hall, as well as in the entry way to the Flint Public Library, and at another location to be announced.



To take advantage of this community program discount please go to <https://www.greatamericanrainbarrel.com:444/c-90-middleton.aspx> or email info@tgarb.com or call (800) 251-2352. Deadline for ordering is June 11, 5 PM. Barrels will be available for pick up on Wednesday, June 20, 5-7 PM at the Middleton Farmers' Market, Angelica's Restaurant parking lot, 49 South Main Street, Middleton, or by special arrangement with streamteam@comcast.net.