



Successful, Ecological Lawns

Saturday, May 21, 2011

Look Park 10:00 AM – 12:00 NOON
Rocky Hill Co-Housing 12:00 – 2:00 PM
Northampton, MA

\$10.00 ELA Member or \$15 Non-Member

Join our co-hosts Bernadette Giblin and Julie Meyer for this informative walking tour of two successful, ecological lawns at Look Park and Rocky Hill Co-Housing in Western Massachusetts.

Look Memorial Park in Florence, MA, a 157 acre private park, is one of two organic lawn demonstration projects in Western Massachusetts. The **Pines Theater** is being transitioned from a traditional turf management program to organic non-soluble, slow release fertilizers and organic pest management strategies. The landscaped grass amphitheater hosts numerous events and thousands of patrons annually. Bernadette Giblin will explain the organic cultural practices that promote beauty, environmental efficiency, and cost effectiveness being used on the Pines Theater lawn. And will discuss what organic products are most effective in working with nature to achieve greater soil stability while lowering ecological and human health threats on lawns.

Rocky Hill Co-Housing (RHC) is a thriving community of neighbors committed to living lightly on the earth. This ecological mission led to the choice to plant low-mow turf. This tour will include discussion about low-mow grass including why it might be a good choice for lawns; where this lawn alternative is used; what species were selected; research findings on new cultivars; as well as where and why it is most and least successful. Julie Meyer will also share residents' evaluation of its aesthetics, maintenance, and performance over time and across micro-climates. Visitors will review the planting plan of the property, and visit areas of the neighborhood where low-mow turf is growing: along swales, parking lot edges, residential lawns, steep slopes, and where there is high recreation activity or snow-plowing.

This Eco-Tour begins at Look Park at 10:00 AM, located at 300 North Main Street, Florence, MA and will then continue on to Rocky Hill Co-Housing where guests should park on Black Birch Trail, not the parking lot. The tour will meet at the Common House entrance (100 Black Birch Trail).

Registrations are limited - [Use This Link to Register Online Now.](#)
For more information: ela.info@comcast.net or (617) 436-5838

Bernadette Giblin is a former landscape contractor and municipal sustainability coordinator. She is principal ecological turf consultant and sustainability educator at Safeground Organic Landcare Consulting and provides training on how to achieve greater sustainability on buildings and grounds. She has been a NOFA Accredited Organic Land Care Professional since 2005 and worked with New England Coalition Against Pesticides (NECAP) to ban spraying along 17 Massachusetts roadways.

Julie Meyer, MS, MLA is the owner of Gardens of Delight - a local landscape design, installation and maintenance business since 2000, and is a 1- year resident of Rocky Hill Co-housing. Also invited to attend are members of the community involved in the low-mow seeding when the neighborhood was constructed 6 years ago.



CEUs are being sought for this presentation.