



THE GREAT AMERICAN RAIN BARREL



PRESS RELEASE

Groton, CT, May 5, 2021

The City and Town of Groton are promoting rain barrels to residents to help control stormwater run-off.

“We are encouraging residents to use rain barrels because they help towns manage water resources by reducing runoff, lowering municipal water demands, saving energy at treatment plants, and improving residential storm management. Rain barrels provide homeowners with a supplemental water supply during periods of drought. Homeowners who use rain barrels have decreased their water bills up to 40%. It’s a win-win for towns and homeowners. We are excited to be bringing rain barrels to Groton and to hopefully make a difference!” Heidi Comeau, Public Works Services Coordinator, City of Groton.

Baker Cove, a .31 square mile estuary of Fisher Island Sound, located between the City and Town of Groton is listed as water quality ‘impaired’ due to high bacteria pollution that prohibits shell fishing. There are many kinds of pollution and a large issue in Baker Cove is *fecal coliform* bacteria that can be found in waterfowl, pet and human waste (sewer or septic) getting into water through stormwater run-off. Other contaminants include sediment, vehicle chemicals, lawn fertilizer and pesticides.



Figure 1: Baker Cove, Groton CT



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The Baker Cove Watershed Committee is a volunteer task force featuring business, municipal, local non-profit, institution leaders and any interested parties who wish to take local control over improving water quality in and around Baker Cove. Some activities we're working on to reduce or eliminate sources of pollutants are water friendly infrastructure or Low Impact Designs (LID) including promoting rain garden, riparian buffer and rain barrel installations. These are all great ways you as a resident can contribute toward better water quality by



collection, infiltration and preventing stormwater runoff in your community. We have recently created a Baker Cove brochure and map of the watershed with guidance on what's being done for pollution control and ways you can help...look for it very soon at the City of Groton Municipal Building and [online!](#)

While COVID-19 may have had a dark side, it also had some upsides in 2020. With more time on their hands, people took up activities they didn't have time for before the pandemic.

Gardening became a form of solace for many in the wake of the pandemic. In 2020, people planted more vegetable and herb gardens than in previous years. According to *Garden Center Magazine's* Industry Report for 2020, sales from vegetable plants and herbs had increased more than 15% from 2019.¹

People were thinking more about conserving energy and money as well as ways to be more environmentally conscientious. With erratic weather raging throughout the world, rainfall was unpredictable — at times we had rampant flooding and other times we were in a drought. Sales of rain barrels increased as they offered homeowners with an alternate water supply during periods of drought. Due to COVID-19, Great American Rain Barrel (a Massachusetts company) rolled out fewer programs with cities and towns in 2020, but increased its national sales over 50% from 2019.

A survey conducted by BCG (The Boston Consulting Group) reported that since COVID-19 began, 71% of the people surveyed were extremely concerned about water resource management. Infectious disease and air pollution, were 82% and 72% respectively.²



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“This is the third year we have run the Rain Barrel Program in Fitchburg and we sold a record-shattering number of barrels (176) this year. Rain barrels are a form of Green Infrastructure (G.I.), by capturing rainfall for productive onsite re-use of the captured rainfall by homeowners. G.I. is important to Wastewater because it helps prevent rainfall from running off properties and entering into the sewer system. G.I. is also beneficial to the separate stormwater drainage system and to the wetlands resource areas of the City.”

Jeffrey A. Murawski, P.E. Fitchburg DPW Commissioner of Wastewater, Fitchburg, Ma.

To find out more about the barrels and participate in The Great American Rain Barrel Program, please visit: www.greatamericanrainbarrel.com/community/ and select **Groton, CT**. Barrels are offered for **\$79**, and will be available for pick up on **Saturday, June 26th, 9:00-11:00am** at **The City of Groton Municipal Building, 295 Meridian St, Groton, CT 06340**.

Deadline for purchase is **June 14th**, midnight.

About the Great American Rain Barrel

The Great American Rain Barrel is a local food importing company that has been repurposing shipping drums into Rain Barrels since 1988. The Great American Rain Barrel Co. has been an approved vendor by the MASS DEP since 2010.

¹ <https://www.gardencentermag.com/article/2020-vision-state-of-the-industry-report-covid-19-coronavirus/>

² <https://www.bcg.com/en-us/publications/2020/pandemic-is-heightening-environmental-awareness>