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Visit Our Public Rain Gardens

THANKS TO OUR RAIN GUARDIANS

SC Johnson Fund, E.C. Styberg Foundation, Wisconsin Energy Foundation, Southeast Wisconsin Watersheds Trust and Milwaukee River Basin Partnership, River Network Miller/Coors and Individual Donors, and in partnership with UW-Extension

Rain Gardens Open to the Public (Built in 2008 and 2009)

Racine County

- C.O.P House (250 sf), 3219 Republic Av., Racine
- Countryside Humane Society (300 sf), 2706 Chicory Road, Mt. Pleasant
- Eco-Justice Center (300 sf), 7133 Michna Rd., Caledonia
- Fire Station No. 2 (300 sf), 6040 Douglas Av., Caledonia
- Gateway Technical College (275 sf), 1001 Main St., Racine Building, Lakeside Entrance
- Racine County Convention & Visitors Bureau (275 sf), 14015 Washington Av., Sturtevant
- River Bend Nature Center (300 sf), 3600 N. Green Bay Rd., Caledonia
- St. Andrews Church (300 sf), 1015 Four Mile Rd., Caledonia
- Sturtevant Village Hall (230 sf), 2801—89th St., Sturtevant
- UW-Parkside Root River Environmental and Community Center (200 sf), 1301 Sixth St., Racine
- Walden III School (600 sf), 1012 Center St., Racine
- Racine County Food Bank (1,100 sf), 2000 DeKoven Av., Racine

Kenosha

- Tom La Duke residence (600 sf), 4006-5th Av., Kenosha
- Kenosha Water Utility (600 sf), 4401 Green Bay Rd, Kenosha
- Ranger Hall (400 sf), UW-Parkside, Somers
- Village Hall (300 sf), 8600 Green Bay Rd., Pleasant Prairie
- Friedens Lutheran School (100 sf), 5038-19th Av, Kenosha
- UW-Parkside International House , three gardens, (300 sf), Highway E, Somers
- Pringle Nature Center, (200 sf), 9800-160th Av., Bristol

Milwaukee

- Edgerton Elementary School (387 sf), 5145 S. 116th St., Hales Corners
- Hales Corners Fire Station (300 sf), 1000 W. Forest Homes Av., Hales Corners

Waukesha

- AMS Hair Design & Karl's Coins (300 sf), 1627 South 124th St., New Berlin

Sump Pump Gardens

- Mark & Chris Flynn (300 sf), 129 E. 4 Mile Rd., Wind Point
- Linda Busha (300 sf), 3123 S. Kennedy Dr., Sturtevant



June 2009—Caledonia Fire Chief Richard Roeder helps sixth grade students from St. Rita's School dig holes for 300 native plants for the rain garden located at Caledonia Fire Station No. 2 on Five Mile Road and Highway 32.

Accepting Applications for 2010
(click for application)

Register for Rain Garden Workshop
April 10 Racine, April 24 Kenosha ,
June 5 Franklin
(click to register)

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How To Build A Rain Garden

Pick a good site



This homeowner selected a site near downspouts and then extended them to the garden.

Call Diggers Hotline

Always call Digger's Hotline (1-800-242-8511) at least three business days (M-F) before you start digging. Diggers Hotline will mark with flags the underground locations of: electrical (red), natural gas (yellow), cable TV/communication (orange), water (blue), sewers (green), proposed excavation (white). They do not locate underground

Excavate Ft & Level



Many rain gardens are excavated by hand by homeowners or volunteers. On the right a backhoe excavates a 300 sq. ft. rain garden. When using heavy equipment, do not drive into the garden where it can compact the soil and significantly reduce infiltration. Dig the garden 4-8 inches deep and heap the soil around the edge where the berm will be. The goal is a **flat** and **level** bottom. You can use a carpenter's level mounted on a 2X4 and move it around the garden, filling and digging as needed until the surface is level. You can also use survey equipment. If the site is flat, you will be digging at the same depth throughout. If there is a slope, the high end will need to be dug out more than the low end.

Maintenance

Water immediately after planting and continue to water twice a week until the small plants are established. You do not need to water after plants are established. In fact watering after the first year can stunt the root growth. Some weeding will always be needed. Remove by hand only the plants you know are weeds. If you label the plants in the first season, it will be easier to identify the good plants from the weeds. A 3-inch or so level of mulch will make your job much easier and it should be renewed every year. **Do not fertilize!** Leave the plants with their stems and seedheads standing over winter and cut back in the spring when the new growth is 4 to 6 inches tall.

What you will need

Shovels, rakes, trowels

- Wood stakes at least 2 ft. long
- String
- Carpenter's level
- 2x4 board at least 6 ft. long for carpenter's level
- small backhoe (optional)
- Survey equipment (optional)
- One plant per square foot
- Tape measure

Build the berm



In most gardens, a **berm** will be needed to keep the water in the garden so it can infiltrate in the ground. Here, the berm is being shaped to ankle height. The berm will be covered with about 3 inches of mulch to protect it from erosion and provide a barrier to weeds and turf grass. You can plant the berm, but **do not** use rain garden plants on the berm—it is too dry. So not plant turf grass—it will spread into the garden. Potential native plants for the berm are: prairie dropseed, little bluestem, prairie smoke, blue-eyed grass, prairie phlox and shooting star.

Plant the garden



Develop a rough plan for location of the plants. Here, string and stakes were used to lay out a grid. The *Rain Garden Manual* provides many different designs. With the plants in their containers, layout the plants about one foot apart. Dig each hole twice as wide as the plant and keep the crown of the plant level with the existing grade. Fill the hole and tamp down to avoid air pockets.



Spread about three inches of shredded hardwood **mulch** in the garden and the berm. Mulch helps keep moisture in the garden and protects it from the spread of weeds. Mulching is usually not necessary after the fourth growing season.

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Wisconsin Energy Foundation
Racine Community Foundation
Milwaukee River Basin Partnership
River Network
Olympia Brown Unitarian Universalist Church
CNH America

59 Rain Gardens in Two Years

Root-Pike Watershed Initiative Network funded a total of 59 rain gardens in 2008 and 2009. Twenty-six of the gardens are open to the public and feature an educational sign that describes how rain gardens function to improve water quality. The public gardens include two experimental sump pump gardens that receive discharge from sump pumps. Much like rainwater runoff, sump pump water often ends up in ditches, gutters and roads, where it picks up pollutants and carries them to streams, rivers and lakes. Root-Pike WIN will provide technical assistance to all funded sites for three years to ensure that the rain gardens are functioning as intended to reduce storm water runoff.

Rain Garden Facts

- ◆ 59 rain gardens funded
- ◆ Keep approximately 516,000 gallons of rain water and snow-ice melt out of roads and storm sewers each year by capturing and infiltrating runoff in rain gardens
- ◆ 26 rain gardens open to the public in Racine, Kenosha, Milwaukee and Waukesha counties, including two experimental sump pump rain gardens
- ◆ 33 private residential rain gardens
- ◆ Average size: 225 square feet

Help us keep track of the impact of rain gardens on our watershed. If you have built a rain garden without Root-Pike WIN's assistance, take the time to **register** it.

Accepting Applications for 2010
(click for application)

2010 Rain Garden Workshops
April 10 Racine, April 24 Kenosha,
June 5 Franklin
(click to register or go to
info@rootpikewin.org or call 262-898-2055)



May, 2008—Gateway Technical Institute-Racine campus 275 sq. ft. rain garden.

Rain Gardens Can Make A Difference

Water running off residential roofs, roads and driveways can increase water in a stream by 500%, leading to increased flooding and erosion. A 300-square-foot rain garden infiltrates 12,000 gallons of water every year, or enough to fill 2 1/2 tanker trucks.

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Homeowner Rain Gardens

(not open to the public)

KENOSHA

Kelly Deem
Tim Fulton
Margie Hannes
Steve Kolner
Diane Levis
Catherine Mantuano
Lorraine Pecnick
Ken Suchy

Racine County

Lou Barrera
Mary Barry
Sue Borger
Susanne Boye
Linda Brothen
Denise DeKeuster
Harley Dell
Jan Lancelin
Carol May
Michael Moradian
Sue Oertel
Monte Osterman
Barbara & Wally Ott
David Pucely
Michelle Roberts
Joann Sustachek
Jeff Sytsma
Annette Terselic
Mark Tomlinson
Sandra Villarreal

Milwaukee County

Jennifer Bradley Vent
Ron Latus
Leslie Lewandowski



Tim Fulton's 360 sq. ft. rain garden, shown after planting in 2008, receives sump pump discharge from an underground connection and rainwater from a downspout. Tim added small rocks and then flagstone where the sump water percolates into the garden.



Margie Hannes' perfectly excavated 75 sq. ft. rain garden (above) in the Town of Somers was installed in 2008 and in bloom during the monitoring visit in 2009 (left).

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Homeowner Rain Gardens

(not open to the public)



Diane Levis wondered if the young plants in her newly planted rain garden would survive after the 150 sq. ft. garden filled with rain water during a big storm in July 2008 (above). One year later the hardy plants are thriving. The garden is located in Somers.



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Homeowner Rain Gardens

(not open to the public)



Sue Borger's 150 sq. ft. rain garden installed in 2008 in Racine receives water from a down spout that was extended from the house and buried underground. The red circle shows where it discharges into the rain garden.

Lou Barrera's downspout was buried underground and extended into her 72 sq. ft. rain garden located in Caledonia. The garden was built in 2008. Photo to right shows the garden in 2009.



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Homeowner Rain Gardens

(not open to the public)



Suzanne Boye's, 60 sq. ft. rain garden was built in 2008 and is located in her backyard on the south side of Racine. She extended and redirected her downspout to discharge into the rain garden. The photo to the left shows the garden in 2009.



Harley Dell's 300 sq. ft. rain garden in the Village of Mt. Pleasant was built in 2008 and collects rain water from a downspout. The photo shows the garden in 2008 several weeks after it was planted.

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Denise DeKeuster's 130 sq. ft. rain garden in Sturtevant, built in 2009, collects and infiltrates rain water from two downspouts (note extensions).



Ken and Susan Suchy's 100 sq. ft. rain garden in Kenosha, built in 2009 in their front yard, receives rain water from a downspout.

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Homeowner Rain Gardens

(not open to the public)

Hansche Pond



Carol May's 300 sq. ft. garden, built in 2008 and located on a bank of a Hansche Pond in the City of Racine, captures stormwater from a house downspout. During heavy rainfalls, the rain garden can reduce erosion and sediment in the pond by holding back the runoff, infiltrating much of it in the ground, and releasing the remaining water more slowly.

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Homeowner Rain Gardens

(not open to the public)



◀ Storm sewer outflow to pond



Sue and Mike Oertel's first objective as they planned their rain garden was to divert runoff on their property from the nearby storm sewer, which discharges into a large pond. Their 300 sq. ft. rain garden in the Village of Mt. Pleasant, built in 2008, is shown here a year later. It was built into a slope next to the pond. Two downspouts were tiled from the house and now discharge into the rain garden rather than the storm sewer.

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Homeowner Rain Gardens

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▲ Wally and Barbara

Ott, Franksville, built two rain gardens in 2008 totaling 300 sq. ft. Both receive rain water from downspouts. The front yard garden (top left) also receives significant runoff from a neighbor's yard.



Dave Pucely, Mt. Pleasant, directed three downspouts and a sump pump (see red circles above) to his 300 sq. ft. rain garden. The garden was built in 2008 (above) and is show a year later in bloom (left).

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Homeowner Rain Gardens

(not open to the public)



Joann Sustacheck's 300 sq. ft. rain garden in the Village of Union Grove receives rainwater from a house downspout that was buried and extended into the garden. The garden was installed in 2008 (above). Photo below shows the garden in late summer.



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Rain Garden & Rain Barrel



Jeff Sytsma's 156 sq. ft. rain garden in the City of Racine receives rain water from a downspout and overflow from a nearby rain barrel. The garden was built in 2008. The photo above shows the garden in late summer 2009.



Steve Kolner's newly planted and mulched 120 sq. ft. rain garden in the City of Kenosha takes rain water from a downspout (see circle). The garden was built in 2009.

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Homeowner Rain Gardens



In 2009 **Linda Brothen** created two 150 sq. ft. rain gardens on either side of her patio, both fed by extended downspouts. The gardens are located in Racine.



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Rain gardens funded by Root-Pike WIN's Rain Garden Initiative must be located in the Root-Pike watershed. The map here depicts the entire watershed, from New Berlin at the headwaters of the Root River to Pleasant Prairie.

Grant applicants must complete the following to be eligible for a grant award:

Attend a Rain Garden Workshop

Workshops are free but pre-registration is required. Recipients of rain garden grants are required to attend a workshop. The number of accepted registrants is limited by room capacity and priority is given to grant applicants. Register early!

Submit Completed Rain Garden Grant Application & Agreement

Get Approval for Site

Root-Pike WIN must approve your rain garden site. If your initial site is not suitable for a rain garden, we will attempt to find another site on your property.

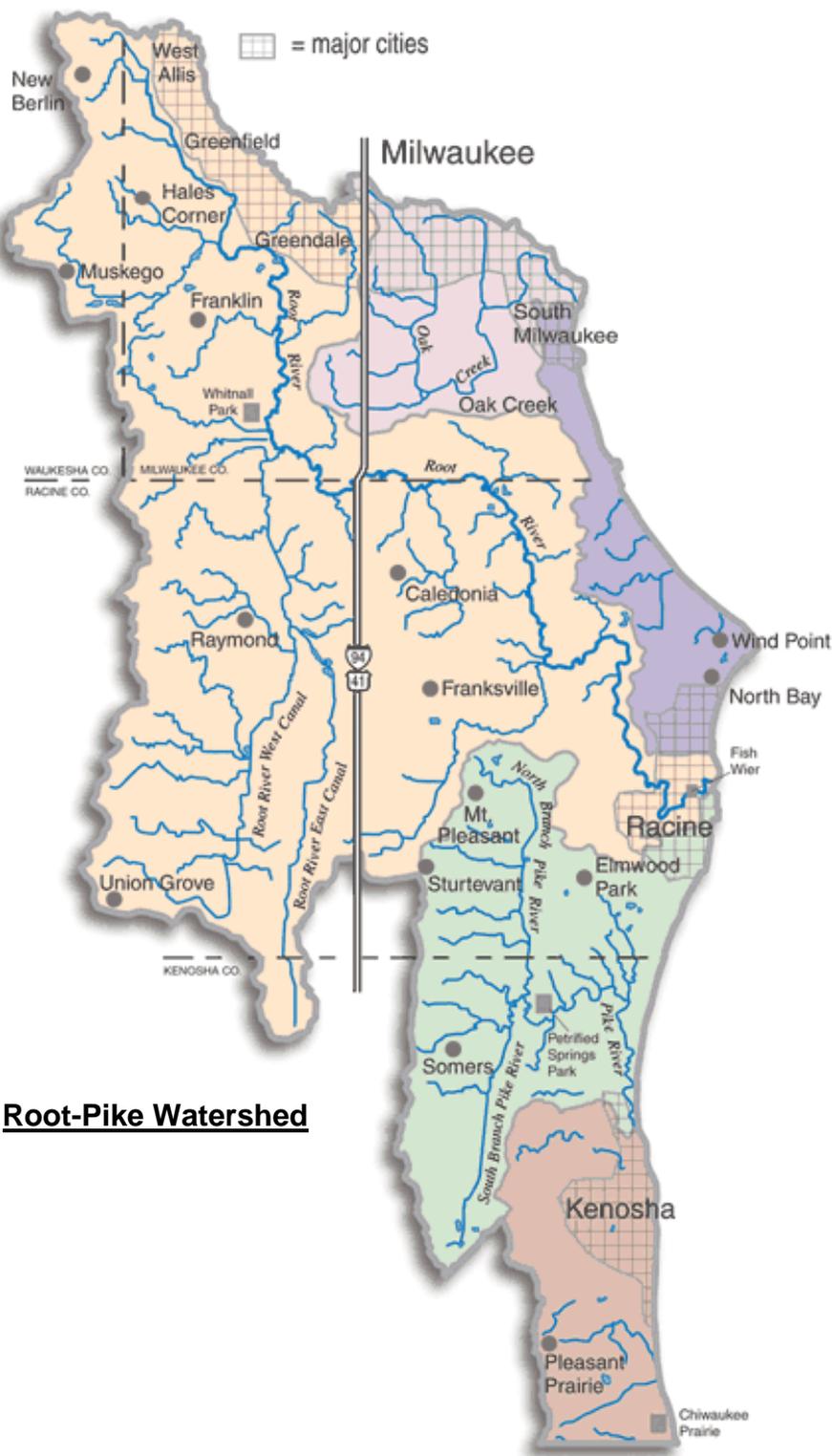
Get approval for Garden Excavation. Root-Pike WIN must approve the finished excavation of your garden to ensure that the location, size, depth, and surface elevation (flat and level) are correct.

Grants are awarded based on available funds and location in the watershed.

Accepting Applications for 2010
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Register for Rain Garden Workshop
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Improving Water Quality

Water quality in our lakes, rivers and streams has improved greatly across the country thanks to the Clean Water Act passed in 1972—but much more needs to be done. A recent study by the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission found that 91 percent of the pollution in our waterways is carried there by storm water. Storm water runoff has become a problem because as our cities and suburbs grow, they replace agricultural land and forests with impervious surfaces—roads, driveways, patios, parking lots, sidewalks) that cannot absorb rainwater. When it rains the storm water carries these pollutants—fertilizers, pesticides, animal waste, car oils—down driveways, through parking lots and into streets directly to our streams, rivers and lakes.

In 2007 and 2008 the Racine Health Department received grants from the Root-Pike WIN and other funders to create a comprehensive database of select bacterial and chemical parameters related to Root River water quality. During the summers of 2007 and 2008 staff collected and analyzed surface water samples from pre-selected sites in the city starting at the Horlick Dam. The final reports of the studies are posted on the City of Racine website (Water Quality Research): www.cityofracine.org.



Tristan Begotka (above and below), a Carthage College student and biology major, and Kirk Abbott, a graduate student from the University of Surrey, England, collect water samples at a stormwater outflow in the Washington Park Golf Course and elsewhere on the river for the City of Racine Health Department's 2007 and 2008 water quality studies of the lower Root River.



Andy Yencha, Basin Educator for the Root-Pike Watershed and his wife Heather Couch enjoy a paddle with their children on the upper Root River.

Milwaukee Area Watershed Study

The Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC) embarked on a long-range planning process to update its *Regional Water Quality Management Plan*, regarded as a once-in-a-generation opportunity to examine and plan comprehensively for water quality on a multi-watershed basis. On December 5, 2007 the Commission adopted the Plan. It is now in final review and SEWRPC hopes to have the full report published by mid-2008.

The Plan recommends the control of both point and nonpoint pollution sources for the watersheds of the Kinnickinnic River, Menomonee River, Milwaukee River, Root River, and Oak Creek watersheds; the Milwaukee Harbor estuary; the direct drainage area to Lake Michigan; and the near-shore area within the Lake. Recent water quality studies by the City of Racine are part of the Plan's update.

Mike Hahn, P.H., Chief Environmental Engineer, is heading up the update. For more information on the Plan's update, go to: www.sewrpc.org/waterqualityplan.



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Register Your Rain Garden

If you built a rain garden on your own without the assistance of the Root-Pike Watershed Initiative Network, take the time to complete the Rain Garden Registration Form below.

You can help us keep track of the impact of rain gardens on storm water runoff by registering your rain garden. We will calculate the square feet of your garden and determine its actual (by gallons) impact during a storm event. We'll add your rain garden's impact to others in the watershed and calculate the overall impact.

Registration Form

First Name:* _____

Last Name:* _____

Street Address:* _____

City:* _____ Zip:* _____

State _____ County _____

Property Type:* Homeowner Demonstration

Number of rain gardens:* _____

Phone Number:* _____

Email Address * _____

I give the Root-Pike Watershed Initiative Network permission to enter my property one time to observe and photograph my rain garden or rain gardens.



[Click to register](#)

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2010 Rain Garden Grant Application

Eligibility: Rain gardens must be located in the Root River and Pike River watersheds. Recipients of grant awards must complete and sign the Rain Garden Agreement. Recipients of grants must attend a Rain Garden Workshop and have their garden site and excavation approved by Root-Pike WIN prior to receiving plants.

Contact Information

First Name:* _____

Last Name:* _____

Provide name of homeowner or lead person responsible for the demonstration site, address, phone email for that person.

Title:* _____

Street Address:* _____

City:* _____ Zip:* _____

Phone Number* _____

Email Address* _____

Rain Garden Site

Type of Rain Garden:

Homeowner Demonstration

Total square footage of roof or parking lot _____

Number of downspouts directed to garden _____

Total square footage of rain garden _____

Location of Rain Garden: Same as contact information

Name of organization (where rain garden is located)

Provide address below if different than Contact Information:

Street Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

County _____

Sun Exposure of Site: Full to Partial Sun

Full to Partial Shade

I have attended or will attend a Rain Garden Workshop sponsored by Root-Pike WIN

Date

Demonstration Rain Garden

Public facilities and businesses are likely candidates for Demonstration Rain Gardens. The sites must be open to the public for viewing during normal business hours. Root-Pike WIN will supply 100 percent of the native plants for demonstration gardens up 300 square feet at a rate of one plant plug per square foot. For example, a 100 square foot site would receive 100 native plants. In addition, Root-Pike WIN will install a sign at the site that describes the function of a rain garden and lists the native plants. A photo of the sign is posted on page 1 of this website.

Homeowner Rain Garden

Root-Pike WIN will supply 50 percent of the native plants for homeowner rain gardens up 300 square feet at a rate of one plant plug per square foot. For example, a 100 square foot site would receive 50 native plants. The remaining plants must be purchased from Root-Pike WIN at our wholesale cost of \$1.25-\$1.50 each. The native plants supplied and sold by Root-Pike WIN are in 2-1/2" containers. Root-Pike WIN purchases the plants from nurseries that specialize in S.E. Wisconsin native plant stock.



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Rain Garden Agreement

Submit signed form to: Root-Pike WIN, PO Box 044164, Racine, WI 53404. Fax: 815-361-7522

- Select a leader** for your rain garden project who will be Root-Pike WIN's main contact and who has the authority to sign this Agreement. By signing this Agreement the leader agrees to attend a workshop, and the site selection, excavation and planting of the garden, and oversee the garden's maintenance to include weeding and mulching.
- Attend free Rain Garden Workshop.** Register as many people as you want (www.rootpikewin.org or call 898-2055). At least one person from your household or group must attend the Workshop.
- Get garden site approved by Root-Pike WIN before digging.** Select a rain garden site near a downspout or near a different impervious surface, such as a parking lot. Measure the area to be drained to rain garden (roof, driveway) and size the garden accordingly. Follow directions in the publication, *Rain Gardens: A How-To Manual for Homeowners*, which you will receive free at the workshop.
- Call Diggers Hotline** at least 3 weeks before you start digging: 1-800-242-8511
- Get garden excavation approved by Root-Pike WIN.** The site must be approved prior to receiving plants.
- Install plants** (one per square foot) and apply 3 inches of mulch.
- Water plants** daily the first three weeks to help them get established & **pull weeds as needed.**
- Grant permission to Root-Pike WIN to **enter your property** 2-3 times a year for 3 years to monitor your rain garden.
- Grant permission to Root-Pike WIN to **use photos** of your rain garden in its publications and on its website.
- Grant permission to Root-Pike WIN to **register your garden** on its website.

As the lead representative of the rain garden located at the address listed here, I agree to fulfill the responsibilities listed in this Agreement.

Rain Garden Location: street address, city, zip

Full name of homeowner or lead person (contact person) responsible for the rain garden site

Signature (Rain Garden Homeowner/Leader)

Date

Phone

Email

Root-Pike Watershed Initiative Network Agreement

- Consult with the homeowner or leader of rain garden project.
- Hold free Rain Garden Workshops taught by rain garden experts and provide instructional materials.
- Evaluate suitability of proposed rain garden site and assist in locating an alternative site if initial site is not suitable.
- Evaluate garden excavation and make recommendations if it is not properly excavated.
- Monitor the rain garden at least three times in the first year and once a year in the following two years.
- Provide plants at a rate of one per square foot.
- Provide free plants for **public demonstration sites** up to 300 square feet.
- Provide 50% of the plants free to **homeowners** for sites up to 300 square feet and sell the remaining 50% at Root-Pike WIN's wholesale cost (\$1.25-\$1.50 per plant).
- Provide free native plants in the 2nd and 3rd years to replace lost plants

As the lead representative for Root-Pike WIN, I agree to fulfill the responsibilities listed above.

Signature, Susan Greenfield, Executive Director, Root-Pike WIN

Date

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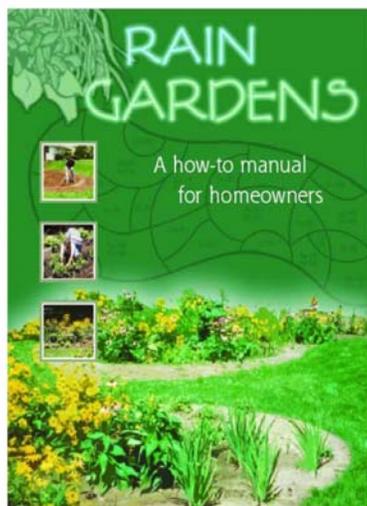
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2010 Rain Garden Workshops

Saturday, April 10, Racine

Free workshop in partnership with
Green Revival Greater Racine
Ecology Fair
9:30-10:30 a.m.
Gateway Technical College-
Racine campus, Racine Building,
lakeside entrance

Saturday, April 24, Kenosha

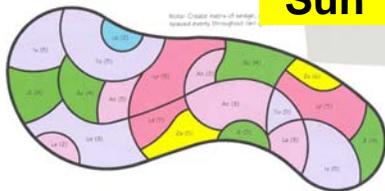
Free workshop in partnership with
Celebrate Earth Day
9:30-10:30
Gateway Technical College
3520—30th Avenue, Kenosha
West side of campus

Saturday, June 5, Franklin

Free Hands-On Workshop
In partnership with City of Franklin
Environmental Commission
10:00 am-1:00 p.m.
Franklin Public Library
9151 W. Loomis Road

Additional workshops may be held in 2010.

Sun



Garden sites considered for funding must have full to partial sun.

Workshop Instructors

Nan Calvert, Coordinator, Rain Garden Initiative

Patti Nagai, Horticulture Educator, UW-Extension-Racine

Larry Wheeler, Natural Creations in Landscaping

Andy Yencha, Basin Educator, UW-Extension

Workshop Instruction. Our instructors are experts in rain gardens, native plants and storm water runoff. They teach workshop participants how to build a rain garden following the technical standards developed by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and described in the publication, *Rain Gardens: A How-To Manual for Homeowners*. Workshop participants receive a free copy of the \$4.00 manual. You will also learn how rain gardens and other practices can reduce the impact of polluted storm water runoff and improve the water quality of our streams, rivers and lakes. Grant recipients and others involved in planning, excavating, planting and maintaining a rain garden sponsored by Root-Pike WIN are required to attend a workshop.



Click to register (or email info@rootpikewin.org or call 262-898-2055)



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2010 Plant Collection

Plant Pick-up Days

Dates to be announced

Garden sites considered for funding must have full to partial sun.



Button Snake Root
Liatris spicata

Picking up and Paying for Plants

Plant pick-up times will be pre-scheduled with Root-Pike WIN. Payment for private **homeowner grant recipients** will be accepted only in cash or by check made payable to Root-Pike WIN. Plants must be paid in full on pick-up day. Plants cannot be held or delivered. Unclaimed plants will be given to another grant recipient and cannot be re-ordered. The plants are available only to grant recipients who have had their site and excavation approved by Root-Pike WIN.

The 2010 rain garden plant collection includes some varieties from previous years and many new ones.

Common Name	Species Name	Color	Bloom Time	Height
Sky-blue Aster <i>new</i>	Oolentangiense	Light blue	Late summer to fall	1-1/2 to 3 feet
White Wild Indigo <i>new</i>	Baptisia leucantha	White	May-July	3 to 5 feet
Side-oats Grama <i>new</i>	Bouteloua curtipendula	Green	Mid summer to early fall	2 to 2-1/2 feet
Hop Sedge <i>new</i>	Carex lupulina	Green	May-September	4.3 feet at maturity
Lance Leaved Tickseed <i>new</i>	Coreopsis lanceolata	Yellow	May-July	
Pale Purple Coneflower <i>new</i>	Echinacea pallida	Pale purple	June-July	2 to 3 feet
Blue Flag Iris	Iris versicolor	Purple	May-July	Up to 4 feet
Button Snake Root <i>new</i>	Liatris spicata	Pink-purple	July-September	3 to 4 feet
Winged Loosestrife	Lythrum alatum	Pink	June-September	1 to 4 feet
Yellow Coneflower <i>new</i>	Ratibida pinnata	Yellow	May-September	3-5 feet
Prairie Cord Grass	Spartina pectinata	Green-tan	Mid summer to early fall	4 to 7 feet



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2010 Plant Collection



Sky Blue Aster
Aster Oolentangiensis

- Attracts bees, butterflies

White Wild Indigo
Baptisia leucantha



Side-Oats Grama
Bouteloua curtipendula



Hop Sedge
Carex lupulina

Lance Leaved Tickseed
Coreopsis lanceolata

- Attracts butterflies
- Showy flowers
- Good cut flower
- Will naturalize





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2010 Plant Collection



Pale Purple Coneflower

Echinacea pallid

- Attracts butterflies



Blue Flag Iris

Iris versicolor



Button Snake Root

Liatris spicata

- Attracts birds and hummingbirds



Yellow Coneflower

Ratibida pinnata

- Attracts birds



Winged loosestrife

Lythrum alatum



Prairie Cord Grass

Spartina pectinata

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More About The Plant Collection

Native plants are plants that have evolved over thousands of years in a particular region. They have adapted to the geography, hydrology, and climate of that region. Prior to the arrival of the first European settlers, the Midwestern landscape was made up of a variety of ecosystems, including prairies, savannas, woodlands and wetlands, all rich in native plant communities.



Side-oats grama

Bouteloua curtipendula)

Plant Pick-up Days

To Be Announced

*Pick-up times are pre-scheduled
by Root-Pike WIN*

The plant collection for 2010 features a mix of flowering plants, sedges and grasses. The plant mix features different colors, blooms times, and height. The plants were selected for their tolerance for wet conditions and their adaptability to climate changes in S.E. Wisconsin.

The **plant list and photo descriptions** can be found on this website. Root-Pike WIN purchases the plants wholesale from nurseries that specialize in growing native plants for southeastern Wisconsin. The plants are delivered in 2-1/2 " or larger containers.

Policies

- The total number of plants provided for a rain garden is calculated at a rate of one plant per square foot. For example, a 200 sq. ft. garden would consist of 200 plants.
- We cannot accept special plant orders.
- We may need to vary quantities and plant species based on availability from the nursery.
- The rain garden collection assembled by Root-Pike WIN for grant recipients must be accepted as is. No substitutes are allowed by the grant recipient.
- Plants are available only on scheduled **Plant Days** and recipients must pick up their plants. We do not deliver plants. Unclaimed plants will be given to another grant recipient and the unclaimed plants cannot be re-ordered.
- Recipients of Homeowner Rain Garden grants must purchase one-half (50%) of their plants from Root-Pike WIN at the wholesale cost of \$1.25 to \$1.50/each. Plants for Homeowner rain gardens must be paid in cash or by check on the assigned Plant Day.

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Calculating Cost of a Homeowner Rain Garden

Root-Pike will supply one-half of the native plants for approved Homeowner Rain Gardens up to 300 square feet and sell the remaining half at wholesale prices of \$1.25-\$1.50 per plant which includes shipping. To determine your direct cost, follow the chart below. We calculate one plant per square foot. Plants will be potted in 2-1/2 containers. Rain Gardens are funded while funds remain.

Size of Garden by Square Footage	Number of Plants (one per sq. foot)	Root-Pike WIN Plant Donation (50%)	Homeowner Plant Purchase (50%)	Homeowner Cost (\$1.25-\$1.50 per plant wholesale)*
50	50	25	25	\$31.25 to \$37.50
75	75	38	38	\$47.50 to \$57.00
100	100	50	50	\$62.50 to \$75.00
150	150	75	75	\$93.75 to \$112.50
200	200	100	100	\$125.00 to \$150.00
250	250	125	125	\$156.25 to \$187.50
300	300	150	150	\$187.50 to \$225.00

The Rain Garden initiative is made possible thanks to funding from SC Johnson Fund, E.C. Styberg Foundation, Wisconsin Energy Foundation, Southeast Wisconsin Watersheds Trust and Milwaukee River Basin Partnership, River Network Miller/Coors and Individual Donors, and in partnership with UW-Extension

* Final wholesale plant costs are pending the placement of orders, but are not expected to exceed \$1.50 per plant.



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Keeping Track of Rain Garden Impact

County	Funded Rain Gardens	Sq. Ft.	Annual Infiltration (gallons)	Existing Rain Gardens (registered)	Sq. Ft.	Annual Infiltration (gallons)
Racine	34	7,622	304,880	02	530	21,200
Kenosha	17	3,835	153,400			
Milwaukee	05	1,157	46,280			
Waukesha	01	300	12,000			
Total	57	12,914	516,560	02	530	21,200

Calculations are based on annual precipitation and do not include two funded sump pump gardens of 450 sq. ft.

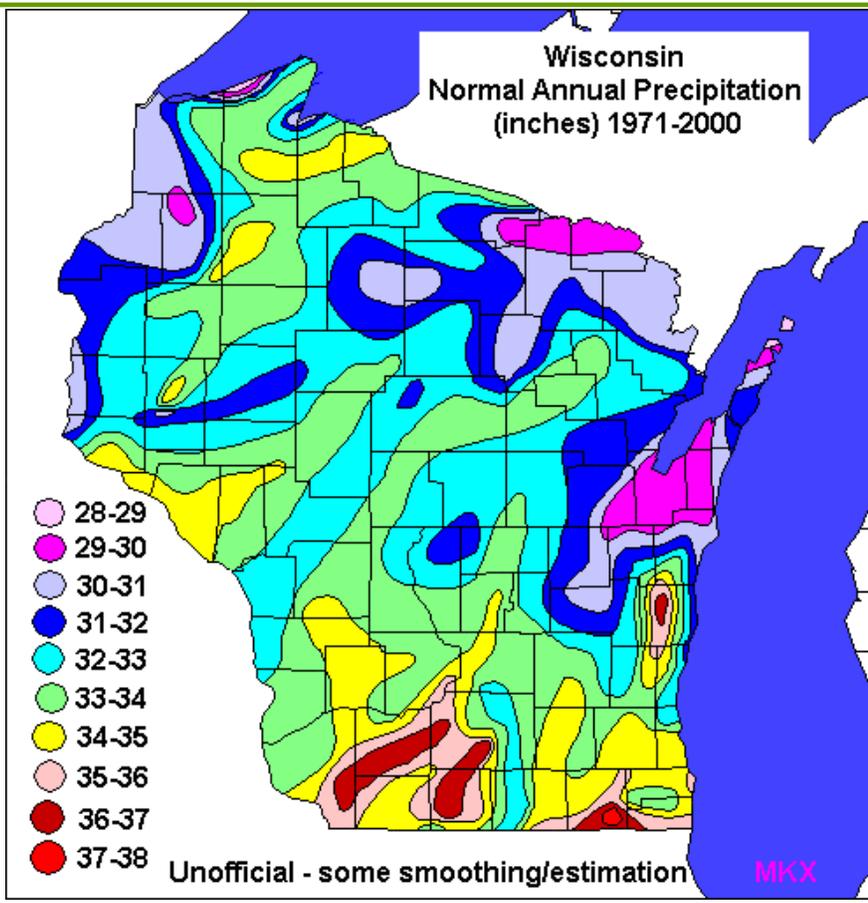
Calculating Impact

Water Volume

Studies show that stormwater runoff **volume** can be reduced by 73% or more with rain gardens.

Infiltration

Compared to a patch of lawn, a rain garden allows about 30 percent more water to soak into the ground. A 300-square-foot rain garden infiltrates 12,000 gallons of water every year, or enough to fill 2 1/2 tanker trucks (Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources).



National Weather Service

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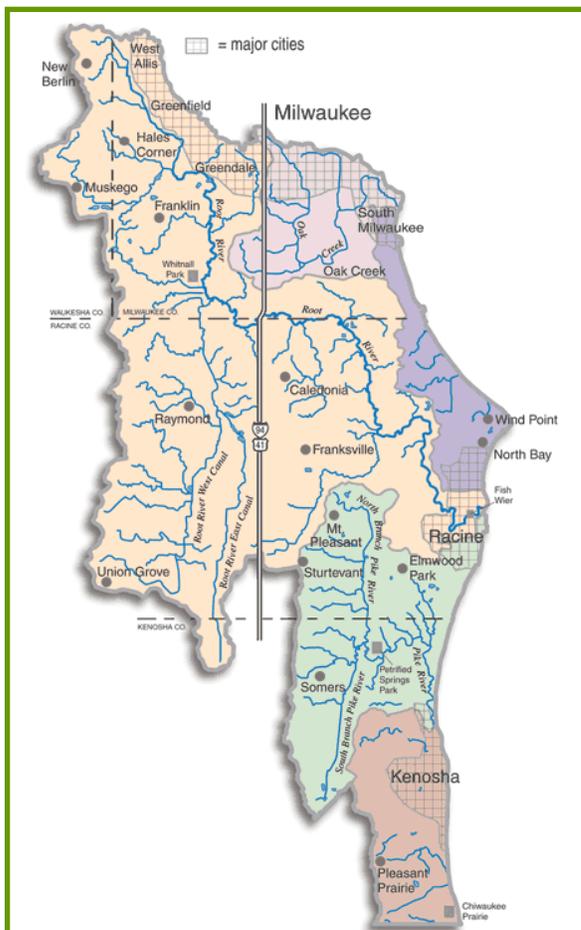
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The Root-Pike Watershed



The Root-Pike Watershed covers nearly 327 square miles of South-eastern Wisconsin. Over 200

miles of streams and tributaries have changed the landscape and have been changed over many years. Lake Michigan and the river systems that empty into Lake Michigan provided transportation and sustenance to Native Americans and early settlers. Now known for its urban features, this landscape was once covered with diverse woodlands, prairies, wetlands, streams and lakes.

Today the Root-Pike Watershed and their numerous tributaries meander their way through an increasingly urban landscape spread over four counties. Over 1.6 million residents from Kenosha, Milwaukee, Racine and Waukesha Counties interact with and impact this watershed daily.

Recreation and wildlife abound within the watersheds. There are more than 38 city and county parks in this region, many along the rivers and Lake Michigan. Significant wildlife habitat is found at Chiwaukee Prairie, Petrifying Springs, River Bend Nature Center, and Whitnall Park.

Sections of the Root River are considered quality fisheries. In the spring and fall, migrating Chinook salmon, Coho salmon, brown trout, and rainbow trout can be observed at the Root River Steelhead facility in Lincoln Park in Racine. Two universities, Carthage College and UW-Parkside, share the Pike River watershed and have carried out many studies and projects associated with the river.

Most of the watershed's surface waters are exposed to pollution from agricultural, urban, mound and septic disposal systems. Rain water carries sediment and pollutants from these sources to streams, rivers, and lakes.

Several sections of the Root-Pike Watershed are listed on the DNR's impaired river list for their poor water quality. Some sections qualify as warm water fisheries.

The watershed has suffered from sedimentation from construction sites and agricultural practices, channel alterations (straightening), nutrient enrichment, and stream bank erosion.

Drinking water in the watershed comes from Lake Michigan, private wells, and municipal groundwater aquifers. The two main groundwater concerns are contamination and over-usage.

This map depicts the entire Root River and Pike River watersheds. Rain gardens located anywhere in this geographic area are eligible for Rain Garden grants.

What is a watershed?

A watershed is the drainage system of a defined area. All runoff water, including rainfall and snowmelt in our watershed flows into area streams, rivers, and eventually into Lake Michigan. The Root-Pike Watershed is comprised of five smaller watersheds: Root River, Pike River, Pike Creek, Oak Creek and Wind Point. All of these watersheds drain to Lake Michigan. As water travels it picks up pollutants and sediment from many sources. How we build and maintain our cities, towns, roads, farmland, and parkland all determine the quality of the Root-Pike Watershed. This is why erosion or pollution anywhere in the watershed affects the rivers and lakes.

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Professional Rain Garden Landscapers

Looking for a professional to build your rain garden?



Natural Creations in Landscaping

Larry Wheeler, Owner
P.O. Box 141, Franksville, WI 53126
262-321-0358

Large-scale rain gardens (1,000 sq. ft. or more)

Applied Ecological Services

Steven Apfelbaum, Lead Ecologist/Owner

steve@appliedeco.com

17921 Smith Road

P.O. Box 256

Brodhead, WI 53520

608-897-8641, Ext. 29

www.appliedeco.com

Large to Small Scale Rain Gardens

Natural Creations in Landscaping

Larry Wheeler, Owner

P.O. Box 141

Franksville, WI 53126

262-321-0358

Greener Roofs & Gardens, LLC

John LaPointe, Owner

262-844-2397

john@roofandgardens.biz

www.roofandgardens.biz

Large to Small Scale Rain Gardens

Cedarburg Science

Heather Patti, ecologist

hpatti@cedarburgscience.com

Ginny Plumeau, ecologist, owner

1555 Wisconsin Avenue

Grafton, WI 53024

262-376-0735

www.cedarburgscience.com

Trillium Native Landscapes

Kevin Rische, Owner

kevin@trilliumlandscapes.com

P.O. Box 398

Barrington, IL 60011

847-224-9874

www.trilliumlandscapes.com

Formecology

John Gishnock, Landscape Architect & Owner

210 Cemetary road

Evansville, WI 53536

608.882.6656

f: 608.882.6657

info@formecology.com

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Other Rain Garden Programs

Lake Michigan Rain Garden Initiative

Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District

<http://www.mmsd.com/raingardens/index>

MMSD offers rain garden grants to homeowners and non-profit organizations located in its service area.

Deadlines for applying are:

May 1, 2010 - Applications are due to MMSD. If the applicant meets this deadline, their ability to receive the plants they ordered is greatly enhanced.

May 15, 2009 - Plant orders are due to the Graham Martin Foundation. If a specific plant is not available, GMF will work with the applicant to arrange for a reasonable substitute.

New this year: Minimum plant order is one full tray of plants (32 total).

June 26, 2010 - Plants for all orders will be available for pick-up at MMSD Headquarters Building Parking Lot, 260 W. Seeboth St., Milwaukee, from 9AM-10:30AM. Not sure if you are eligible for this grant? Call 414-225-2070 or email your questions to raingardens@mmsd.com. You may also contact MMSD if you need an application mailed to you.

If you know of other rain garden programs in southeastern Wisconsin, let us know and we will list it on this site.

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Retail Sources for Native Plants

Wild Ones Plant Sale

June 5, 2010

Kenosha County Administration Building
19600 – 75th Street, Bristol, WI 53104

A fund-raiser for the Root River Chapter of Wild Ones
For more information: Nan Calvert, 262-681-4899 or
Email: prairiedog@e-3.cc

Agrecol Corporation
Agricultural Ecological Solutions
2918 Agriculture Drive
Madison, WI 53718
www.agrecol.com
608-223-3571
Fax: 608-223-3575

An online store for backyard gardeners.
Grows over 200 species of native wildflowers and grasses
for conservation, restoration and erosion control

Taylor Creek Restoration Nursery
(Division of Applied Ecological Services)
17921 Smith Road, Brodhead, WI 53520
(608) 897-8547
Fax: (608) 897-8486
info@appliedeco.com
www.appliedeco.com
Prairie, woodland and wetland plants
for use in restoration projects
Native Landscape Design and Installation

Johnson Nursery
W180 N6275 Marcy Rd.,
Menomonee Falls, WI 53051
Phone: (262) 252-4988;
Fax: (262) 252-4495
info@johnsonsnursery.com
Native trees, shrubs, grasses and wildflowers

Prairie Nursery
PO Box 306, Westfield, WI 53964
1-800-476-9453
<http://www.prairienursery.com>
Questions about plants, seeds, growing conditions, etc.,
contact Customer Service cs@prairienursery.com.
Native Plants and Seeds for Prairies, Moist Meadows, Wood-
lands, and Savannas
Native Landscape Design and Installation

Other Wisconsin Native Plant Nurseries

This is a partial listing of nurseries that offer retail sales of Wisconsin native seeds,
plants, shrubs and trees and is not an endorsement.

For a more extensive listing, go to:

www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/er/plants/nurseries.htm

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Related Links

www.dnr.wi.gov/runoff/rg/rgmanual.pdf

Rain Gardens: A How-To Manual for

Homeowners is one of the best available resources for planning and building a rain garden in Wisconsin. It was written by Roger Bannerman, a water quality specialist with Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and published by WIDNR and the University of Wisconsin-Extension. The publication can be downloaded and printed from the DNR website. Hard copies are available at UW-Extension offices at a cost of \$1.00 each. The manual is the official learning tool in Root-Pike WIN's Rain Garden Workshops and each attendee receives a free copy.

www.harbourpublishing.com

How to Get Your Lawn & Garden Off Drugs, 2nd Edition, 2003, is a basic guide to pesticide-free gardening in North America, by Carole Rubin, Harbour Publishing, 2003.

<http://www.epa.gov/weatherchannel/>

After the Storm is a video produced by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and The Weather Channel that shows the impact of stormwater runoff during storm events. The video and a brochure are excellent teaching materials and are free and downloadable from the website. You can also order copies of the DVD and brochure.

www.clean-water.uwex.edu/pubs/pdf/home.lonative.pdf

Wisconsin Native Plant Sources provides a list of nurseries that sell seeds and plants needed to make your natural landscaping plan a reality. The list includes suppliers in Wisconsin and neighboring states. Often, a nursery near to you will sell a local genotype of a particular plant. Published by UW-Extension and available at UW-Extension offices.

www.dnr.state.wi.us/invasives/photos

Invasive Plant Species—Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources website provides photos and descriptions of invasive non-native plants and native plants.

www.epa.gov/surf

Surf Your Watershed—On displayed map, selected "Root-Pike Watershed 04040002" to learn more about the watershed including real time stream flows, scientific studies, impaired waters, citizen-based watershed groups, and more.



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Rain Garden Advisory Committee

Nan Calvert, Coordinator/Consultant, Rain Garden Initiative

Reva Holmes, board member, Root-Pike Watershed Initiative Network

Barbara Larson, Horticulture Educator, UW-Extension-Kenosha

Sharon Morrissey, Horticulture Educator, UW-Extension-Milwaukee

Patti Nagai, Horticulture Educator, UW-Extension-Racine

Cathy Schwalbach, Engineer, City of New Berlin

Meryl Strichartz, Vice President/President Elect, YWCA (River Bend Nature Center)

Larry Wheeler, Owner, Natural Creations in Landscaping

Rose Woodruff, member, Village of Sturtevant Beautification Committee

Andy Yencha, Basin Educator, UW-Extension and board member, Root-Pike WIN

Workshop Instructors

Nan Calvert

Patti Nagai

Larry Wheeler

Andy Yencha

Site Approvals

Nan Calvert

Plant Collection Committee

Nan Calvert

Patti Nagai

Larry Wheeler



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Rain Garden Initiative Staff & Consultants

Susan Greenfield, Executive Director

Root-Pike Watershed Initiative Network

Rain Garden Initiative

262-898-2055 (office)

262-412-5211 (mobile)

sgreenfield@wi.rr.com

P.O. Box 044164

Racine, WI 53404

Nan Calvert, Coordinator/Consultant (site approvals)

Rain Garden Initiative

262-681-4899

Native.plant.calvert@gmail.com

4321 Cunningham Road

Kansasville, WI 53139