

Fox River Country Day School Rain Gardens

Timothy Holzworth
Campus Naturalist
Fox River Country Day School

Michael Lopez, LEED AP
Director, Building Operations
Valley View School District 365 - U

Outline

- What is a rain garden?
- Why are rain gardens important?
- FRCDS rain garden
- Preschoolers, Brownies, and Governor Pat Quinn
- How we involved students
- How was this involvement beneficial for students
- Continuing benefits of the rain garden
- Take home message
- Resources to learn more

What is a rain garden?

- A rain garden is a simple depression in your yard that is planted with native flowers and grasses
- It is positioned in the yard to receive runoff from your roof, sidewalks, driveway, and lawns allowing water to slowly percolate into the ground.

Rainwater Resource Recycling

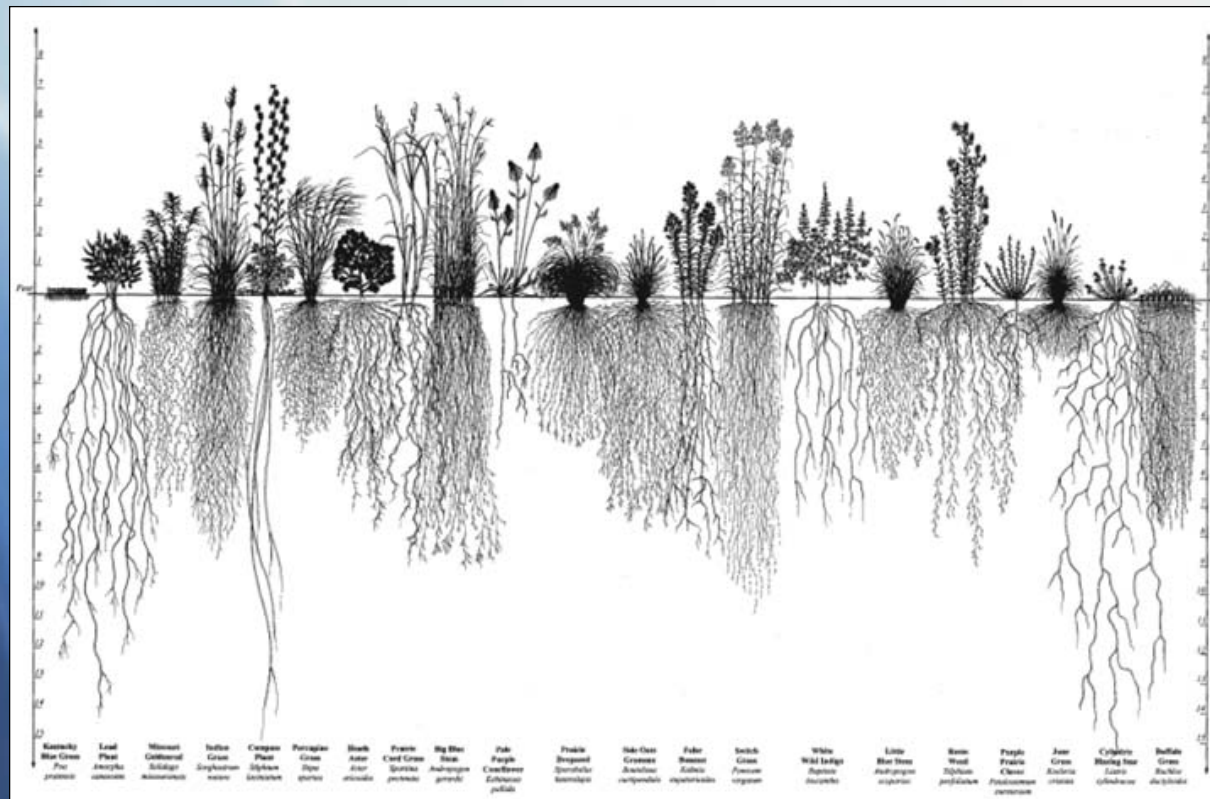
MARCY HOLMES NEIGHBORHOOD

DEMONSTRATION PROJECT



Why are rain gardens important?

- Helps water slowly percolate into the ground to recharge aquifers and groundwater



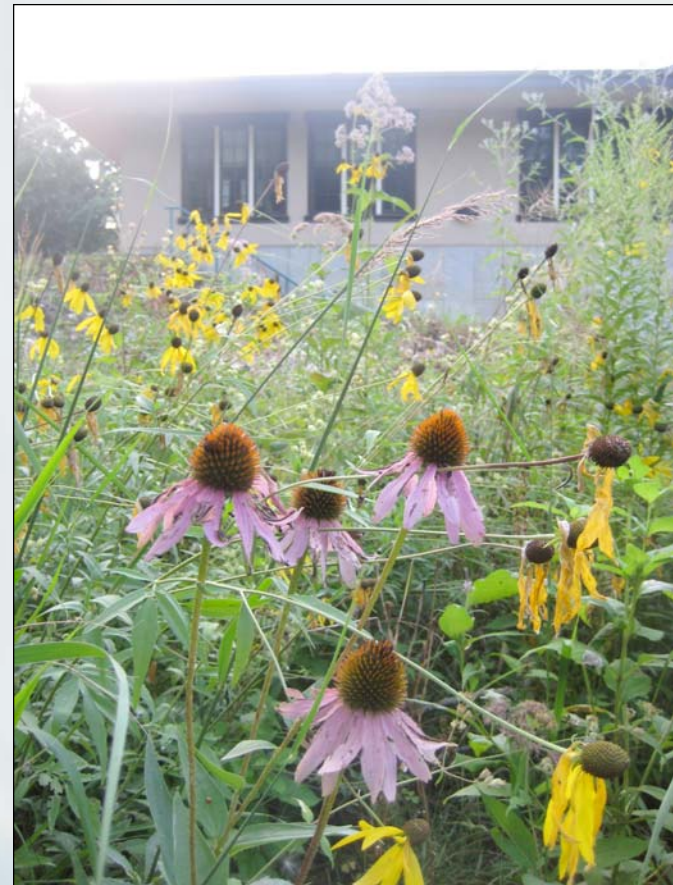
Importance of rain gardens cont.

- Localizes the flow of water to reduce flooding in areas with many impermeable surfaces
- Protects watersheds from polluted runoff from fertilizers, pesticides, oils, and chemicals



Importance of rain gardens cont.

- Rain gardens are aesthetically pleasing. Native plants have thrived on this land for thousands of years. Native landscaping helps connect to a sense of place
- Provides native habitat for insects, birds, and toads.
- Educational opportunities





Late Fall 2007 (Before)

September 2008 (After)



Funding

- Preschool
Bike-a-thon
- Brownies
- Governor Pat
Quinn
- Another option
for grants is the
IDNR

PEDAL-POWERED FUNDRAISER



JESSIE KING | For the Courier News

Fox River Country Day School eighth-graders Min Park (from left), Danielle Haggard and Carl Starkey hold strings used to mark rows for planting in the rain garden while a preschool class of 4-year-olds competes in a bike-a-thon Wednesday to raise funds for the garden at the Elgin campus. The funds raised by the preschoolers will supplement a grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to design and implement the rain garden at the school at 1600 Dundee Ave.

Student Involvement

- Introductions leading up to Earth Day, lessons on water cycle, watersheds, native plants, etc...
- Every student planted one or more plant plugs



Importance of Student Involvement

- Our students will soon be the adults that are making the decisions that affect the world



Providing students with a tangible project that benefits the community and instills a sense of confidence that they as individuals can make a positive impact on the world.

Continuing Benefits for the Community

- Continued educational opportunities
- Local water conservation
- Low maintenance landscape



Take Home Message

- Rain gardens are a simple and effective project that aid in water conservation while benefiting the community through education, beauty, and watershed protection



Resources

- *Rain Gardens: A How-To Manual for Homeowners* can be found through the University of Wisconsin Extension office by searching this article's title in Google
- *Rain Gardens: Landscaping for Water Quality* is an excellent PowerPoint that can be found online by searching the title
- Possibility Place Nursery in Monee, IL
- The Natural Garden, Inc. in St. Charles, IL
- Tim Holzworth, Fox River Country Day School, Elgin. Tholzworth@frcds.org or 847-888-7910