

Volunteers Help to Install the Lakeland City Hall Raingarden

On Saturday, July 7, nearly thirty volunteers braved scorching heat to plant a raingarden at Lakeland City Hall. The raingarden is designed to collect stormwater runoff from the building's roof and from adjacent sidewalks and will reduce water pollution to the nearby St. Croix River.



Volunteers Toben Lafrancois and Roman Morris from the St. Croix River Youth Action Team came out to sharpen their raingarden skills for a project later this summer.

on Saturday to help with the planting. Despite the heat, the volunteers remained in good spirits as they helped to spread compost and mulch throughout the garden, install edging and a decorative fence and plant over 500 plants. For Master Gardeners Nona Cummings, Jackie Metelak and Janet Simonson, the planting session on Saturday was a good follow-up to the Blue Thumb raingarden training they attended in March. Others, like City Council Member Nancy Jacobsen and Planning Commission Member Louise Russell from St. Mary's Point, came out on Saturday to sharpen their skills for future projects in their own communities.

Jim Gilles, Public Works Director

for the City of Lakeland, began his plans for the raingarden after attending Stormwater U in February. With Gilles leading the way, the Middle St. Croix Watershed Management Organization, Washington Conservation District and SEH Inc. worked together to design an effective raingarden for the Lakeland City Hall.

Master Gardeners from Washington County, as well as a local boy scout troop, and several community members came to Lakeland



Volunteers including Master Gardeners, area boy scouts, and local residents helped to plant a raingarden at Lakeland City Hall on July 7



Shawn Tracy, MASWCD, used a large scale drawing of the garden to explain the installation process to volunteers.

The Soil is Stable at Bailey's Arbor in Woodbury!

More than 80 contractors, builders, and inspectors came out on July 17 for a series of three erosion and sediment control seminars organized by the East Metro Water Resource Education Program in conjunction with MECA (MN Erosion Control Association). At the workshop, vendors demonstrated how to apply erosion control techniques such as hydromulch, blown compost with seed and erosion control blankets and logs. The three seminars were held on site at Bailey's Arbor, a new development in Woodbury. By the end of the day, workshop demonstrators and participants had applied erosion control techniques to the yards of four four-plex's and a large bare slope with adjoining drainage swale.



Aaron Mlynek from Westwood Professional Services and Jay Riggs, Washington Conservation District talked to a group of contractors in a newly straw-covered yard.

Welcome New Partners! Cottage Grove and Lake Elmo



WaterShed Partners Cruise the Mississippi River

In the midst of all our hard work to protect local water resources, it is sometimes nice to take a moment to appreciate the lakes and rivers we strive to keep clean. The WaterShed Partners, a collaborative group made of water resource professionals in the metro area, hosted a two-hour tour of the Mississippi River aboard the Magnolia Blossom on June 13. Along the way, participants learned about the natural history of the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area, caught up on new legislation and discussed upcoming challenges to watershed management. Several people from the East Metro Water Resource Education Program joined the tour and enjoyed a beautiful morning on the river.

Members of the East Metro Water Resource Education Program:

Brown's Creek Watershed District • City of Cottage Grove • City of Dellwood • City of Forest Lake • City of Lake Elmo • City of Stillwater • City of Willernie • Middle St. Croix Watershed Management Organization • South Washington Watershed District • Valley Branch Watershed District • Washington Conservation District • Washington County

