

Local Information

What is the City of Des Moines doing with rain gardens?

The City of Des Moines Park and Recreation Department has been awarded a Resource Enhancement and Protection – Conservation Education Program (REAP/CEP) grant to create rain garden toolkits that will help homeowners, businesses, parks, and other groups get started on creating their own rain gardens. The goals of the project are as follows:

- To educate Iowans working with school grounds, businesses, city parks, and private residences about the benefits of rain gardens
- To inform Iowans of the resources available for the installation of rain gardens at businesses, school grounds, city parks, and private residences
- To increase the number of rain gardens planted at businesses, school grounds, city parks, and private residences throughout the state of Iowa
- To reduce nonpoint source pollution of Iowa's waterways
- To build partnerships between organizations in the Greater Des Moines area that deal with water and water quality

Demonstration gardens in Des Moines (more to come!):

St. Mary's Food Pantry - address
Door of Faith Shelter – 6701 SW 9th Street
House of Mercy – 1409 Clark Street
BMX Track at Ewing Park – 5100 Indianola Avenue

Local resources for rain garden information:

Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) – 515-964-1883
Urban Resources and Borderland Alliance Network (URBAN) – 515-964-1883
Watershed University (Metro Waste Authority) – 515-244-0021

Local native plant suppliers:

Ion Exchange Native Seed and Plant Nursery
1878 Old Mission Drive
Harpers Ferry, IA 52146-7533
800-291-2143
www.ionexchange.com

Reeves Wildflower Nursery
Plants for the natural garden
28431 200th Street
Harper, IA 52231
888-411-9767
rayreeves@lisco.com

Prairie Moon Nursery
Route 3 Box 1633
Winona, MN 55987-9515
866-417-8156
www.prairiemoonnursery.com

Missouri Wildflowers Nursery
9814 Pleasant Hill Road
Jefferson City, MO 65109
573-496-3492
www.mowildflowers.net

Heard Gardens Ltd.
8000 Raccoon River Drive
West Des Moines, IA 50266
515-987-0800 x204
lynnkuhn@heardgardens.com

Lists of native rain garden plants that will work well in Iowa can be found at
http://prcd.org/inl/recommended_plants.htm.