



Without erosion control measures, construction sites can send huge quantities of sediment and other pollutants into storm sewers and local water bodies. Photo courtesy of MPCA.

## Getting dirty with erosion control - July 17

Construction site inspections throughout the metro area have shown that the vast majority of builders and contractors could do a lot better job of keeping dirt and construction debris out of local waterways. Although many erosion control practices, such as silt fences and straw blankets, are becoming more common, inspection reports still indicate that 90% or more of the construction sites are non-compliant with at least one erosion control requirement.

On Tuesday, July 17 we will be teaming up with MECA (MN Erosion Control Association) to offer a hands-on field session for builders and contractors working in the east metro area. The training will consist of three sessions, running 8-10am, 10:30am-12:30pm and 1:30-3:30pm. Participants will rotate through a series of stations where they will see and learn how to install different erosion control measures, such as compost berms, erosion control blankets and inlet protectors. The field session will take place at the Bailey's Arbor development in Woodbury and is being co-sponsored by Centex Homes. Other co-sponsors include the Erosion and Sediment Control Program at the University of Minnesota and Westwood Professional Services. Cost for the workshop is \$45.

## Planting at Lakeland City Hall - June 23

Next Saturday, Washington County Master Gardeners will help to plant a new raingarden at the Lakeland City Hall. The planting session will be a follow-up educational opportunity for the master gardeners that attended our training in April and want to see how a real raingarden is created. If you are interested in helping with the planting or just want to stop by to check it out, let me know (275-1136 x.35 or [angie.hong@mnwcd.org](mailto:angie.hong@mnwcd.org)). We will begin planting at 9am and will break for lunch around 11:30 or noon.



Master Gardeners helped plant the raingarden at Carpenter Nature Center (shown above) last summer. Photo courtesy of Lynn Vernon.

## Legend's gets a Blue Thumb makeover



It didn't take long for the word to spread about Blue Thumb and the local cost-share grants available through Brown's Creek Watershed District. A few people attended the Blue Thumb party at Connie Taillon's house, a few attended and the neighborhood's annual meeting and by the time Rusty Schmidt showed up for the first site visit, people were literally popping up from all over the neighborhood to find out how they could get raingardens in their own yards.

So far, there are at least twenty homeowners in the neighborhood interested in installing raingardens at their homes. The word is spreading via word of mouth and in some instances, neighbors are convincing one another to collaborate on joint projects. BCWD hopes to make the gardens as affordable as possible to stretch out their cost-share dollars. With luck they will be able to provide cost-share or design assistance for all of the willing homeowners in the neighborhood.



By the end of this year, there could be several new raingardens in the Legend's neighborhood of Stillwater. Connie and Ken Taillon, residents of Legend's, already have raingardens and native plants in their yard (left).

## Meet me at Washington County Fair, Aug. 1-5

We will be teaming up with the Washington County Master Gardeners to lead educational tours of the four new raingardens, planted at the fairgrounds in 2006. The 20-minute tours will be on Wed., Thu. and Fri., Aug. 1-3 at 6pm, on Sat., Aug. 4 at 11am and 2pm and on Sun., Aug. 5 at 1pm.

This year, the Washington Conservation District and Washington County Groundwater Consortium will have a joint booth in Building D. We plan to create a miniature home and yard display with tips to help homeowners prevent water pollution, such as leaving grass clippings on the lawn, picking up after pets and planting native trees and shrubs. Visitors to our booth will have the opportunity to participate in an interactive scavenger hunt and will be entered in a drawing to win prizes from local nurseries and retailers, such as an electric lawn mower or a rain barrel.

### Upcoming training plans:

#### Landscaping for Water Quality - Part 2

\*A hands-on field session for landscapers will be sometime in August.

#### Stormwater U - Part 2

\*A training to help planners and city staff integrate low impact development into comprehensive plan updates will be sometime this fall.

### Members of the East Metro Water Resource Education Program:

Brown's Creek Watershed District • City of Dellwood • City of Forest Lake • 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

