



## March Citizen Advisory Committee Meeting

**TO:** Nine Mile Creek Citizen Advisory Committee  
**FROM:** Claire Bleser, Education and Outreach Coordinator  
**DATE:** February 24, 2010  
**RE:** CAC March 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting – Raingarden Workshop

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Dear residents of the Nine Mile Creek Watershed,

Winter is about to come to an end and the Spring gardening season is about to start. Our next CAC meeting will be a raingarden workshop on **March 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm** at the District Office. Shawn Tracy, our presenter, is a landscape restoration specialist at the Metro Conservation District which provides technical expertise to the 11-county Metropolitan Soil and Water Conservation Districts. Shawn primarily works on stormwater Best Management Practices (BMPs), low-impact design, and lakeshore and streambank restoration. He has given numerous presentations on raingardens throughout the metro. The Blue Thumb Guide to Raingardens will be available at the workshop for \$10. This is a great guide that walks you through the different steps of building a raingarden to maintaining it. Please RSVP to reserve a spot for the workshop. There is no cost for the workshop.

Don't forget that the **deadline for the Cost-share/Grant is April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2010**. The application is available on our website as a word document under our announcement section. Paper copies are available are also available. Please contact me if you would like to receive one.

Other upcoming events that might be of interest are the Eden Prairie's Home, Landscape, Garden and Everything Spring Expo on **March 20<sup>th</sup>** at Grace Church in Eden Prairie and a Summer Landscape Maintenance workshop which will promote practices with reduced environmental impacts on **April 13<sup>th</sup>** at the Minnetonka Civic Center. This event is held in partnership with the City of Minnetonka and The Minnehaha Creek Watershed District.

Also, if you are interested in taking part in the Eden Prairie's Everything Spring Expo, please contact me.

Thanks!

### Did you know?

Raingardens reduce and filter stormwater runoff and increase groundwater recharge. Raingardens also provide many other benefits. They:

- provide habitat for wildlife and, with the proper plants, increase the number and diversity of birds and butterflies for those who enjoy watching them.
- provide an attractive and creative alternative to traditional lawn landscapes.
- require less maintenance than lawns because they do not need to be mowed, fertilized, or watered once established.
- increase property values and creative landscaping designs.
- reduce storm drain overload and flooding if adopted on a community or neighborhood scale.

*University of Rhode Island Master Gardeners*