

Media Alert

For Immediate Release

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Meet City Stormwater Requirements while Creating Beautiful, Practical Landscape Projects for Clients

What?

Cities across the U.S. are taking various measures to combat [stormwater](#) runoff and reduce pollution in local bodies of [water](#), while raising awareness of the issue. New construction standards consider how much water is leaving your site, with the primary goal to minimize runoff from development sites and to keep the runoff water as clean as possible.

Water that does not evaporate or is not absorbed into the ground is eventually discharged to our local water bodies. As a result, contaminants in stormwater impact water quality in our local lakes and rivers.

“We’re working to increase awareness among the general public that the runoff from their property affects our drinking water and our recreational waterways.” Megan Moeller, Communications Coordinator, City of Rochester. “At the same time, we need local expertise in the design and construction of stormwater management practices.”

This contractor workshop, *Raingardens & Other Stormwater Best Management Practices*, presented by Metro Blooms in partnership with *Blue Thumb - Planting for Clean Water®* will cover: benefits of the bioengineering approach to stormwater management, site assessment, runoff estimates and flow paths, shooting grades, cell design options, estimates of soils balance, infiltration testing, design and site hydrology, excavation, decompaction, shaping the cell, and final grades, as well as materials and plant selection.

“It’s better for the earth and it also makes sense from a business perspective,” says Rich Harrison, Landscape Architect with Metro Blooms, who administers the Blue Thumb Partnership, “More

and more people are interested in sustainable design, which means we need to provide solutions that are beautiful landscape features and help them minimize runoff.”

When? Friday, March 17, 2017
8:30 AM - 11:30 AM
Cascade Meadows
2900 19th Street N.W.
Rochester, MN 55901

How to Register? Register now for this free workshop. Space is limited and these workshops can fill up fast. Register online at <http://metroblooms.org/event/contractor-workshop-2017/org/> or call 651-699-2426.

Workshop partners: This Blue Thumb Contractor Training is offered in partnership with Metro Blooms and the cities of Rochester, Faribault and Owatonna, and the Zumbro Watershed Partnership.

What is a raingarden?

A raingarden is a shallow depression in the ground that is designed to capture rainwater and allow it to soak into the ground within a 24-48 hour period. Most raingardens are best designed with plants that are well adapted to the unique conditions of the garden and your region (such as local native plants).

Fast Facts about runoff:

- Every time it rains one inch, an average urban residential property sheds about 5,400 gallons of stormwater runoff.
- The EPA defines stormwater runoff as the number one threat to water quality in our lakes and streams.

What is Blue Thumb?

Blue Thumb—Planting for Clean Water® is a public/private partnership that promotes native plants, raingardens, and shoreline stabilization projects to reduce runoff and improve water quality. Partners include local governmental units (watershed districts, conservation districts, cities and counties), non-profit organizations, and private companies such as nurseries, landscape design and build companies, sustainable lawn care and tree care services. www.bluethumb.org



Contractor Training Workshop

Raingardens & Other Stormwater Best Management Practices



Friday, March 17, 2017