

Urban Stormwater Working Group Education Subgroup

Thursday, July 18, 2024

Starts at 9:00 AM



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Welcome!

Please type your name and affiliation in the chat box.



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Agenda

9:00 – 9:05	Welcome <i>Eliana Brown, University of Illinois Extension</i>
9:05 – 9:15	Rainscaping Education Program Background 10-minute presentation
9:15 – 9:50	Rainscaping Education Program Revisions: Facilitated Questions Polling and General Questions
9:50-10:00	Round Robin Member Updates (time permitting) Members provide a 1- to 3-minute update on current programs or projects



Rainscaping Education Program Background



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Background

The Rainscaping Education Team from Purdue Extension, the University of Illinois Extension, and Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant is planning an update to the Rainscaping Education Program after 10 years of implementation in Indiana and 4 years in Illinois.

Today we seek your input as stormwater and conservation professionals.



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Acknowledgements

Purdue Rainscaping Team Co-chairs

- **John Orick**, Purdue Master Gardener State Coordinator, Purdue Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture
- **Kara Salazar**, Sustainable Communities Extension Specialist, Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant, Purdue Department of Forestry and Natural Resources

Core Team Members

- **Laura Esman**, Managing Director, Indiana Water Resources Research Center Research Associate & Lab Manager, Natural Resources Social Science Lab Department of Forestry & Natural Resources
- **Jane Frankenberger**, Professor and Extension Water Quality Engineer, Purdue Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering
- **Rosie Lerner**, Purdue Extension Consumer Horticulture Specialist, Purdue Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture
- **Kris Medic**, Agriculture and Natural Resources Educator/County Master Gardener Coordinator, Purdue Extension-Bartholomew County



Acknowledgements

Advisory Team Members

- **Gina Anderson**, Agriculture and Natural Resources/Economic and Community Development Educator, Purdue Extension-Floyd County
- **Bo Beaulieu**, Director, Purdue Center for Regional Development and Assistant Director, Extension Community Development Program
- **Brenda Carton**, Purdue Master Gardener Volunteer
- **Phillip Cox**, Agriculture and Natural Resources Educator, Purdue Extension-Vermillion County
- **Jason Donati**, Stormwater and Recycling Educator, Muncie (Indiana) Sanitary District
- **Laura Fribley**, District Support Specialist, Indiana State Department of Agriculture
- **Ricky D. Kemery**, formerly of Purdue Extension-Allen County
- **Matthew Lake**, Executive Director, Merrillville (Indiana) Stormwater Utility
- **Michael O'Donnell**, Organic and Diversified Agriculture Educator, Purdue Extension
- **Sara Peel**, formerly of Wabash River Enhancement Corporation
- **Lindsey Purcell**, Urban Forestry Specialist, Purdue Department of Forestry and Natural Resources
- **Amy Thompson**, County Extension Director/Agriculture and Natural Resources Educator, Purdue Extension-Monroe County
- **Kevin Tungesvick**, formerly of Spence Restoration Nursery

Program Peer Reviewers

- **Susan Bryan**, Rain Garden Coordinator, Washtenaw County Water Resources Commissioner's Office, Ann Arbor, Michigan
- **Michael Dietz**, NEMO Program Director, Center for Land Use Education and Research (CLEAR), University of Connecticut
- **Rusty Schmidt**, Landscape Ecologist, Waterdrop Design Consulting, New York



Rainscaping in Illinois

Eliana Brown, Illinois Rainscaping Coordinator

- Illinois Extension officially adopted the program in 2021. Pilots in 2017 and 2019.
- Extension Educators are trained to run programs.
- Illinois Extension, partnering with agencies, held 12 Rainscaping programs all over the state, educating more than 100 people and building 23 rain gardens, including in the NLRs Priority Watersheds at Rock Island and Effingham.



Revision Team - Illinois

Eliana Brown, Water Quality and Stormwater Special

Layne Knoche, Stormwater Associate

Peggy Anesi, NREE Educator, Dekalb Co

Chris Enroth, Horticulture Educator, McDonough Co

Abigail Garofalo, NREE Educator, Cook Co

Nancy Kreith, Horticulture Educator, Cook Co



Program Objectives

- Uses sustainable landscape design and management practices that prevent polluted runoff at both the household and community scales from reaching water bodies — directing stormwater to be absorbed by plants and soils.
- Provides training and resources on Rainscaping practices that can be installed in residential settings or small-scale public spaces projects.



Rainscaping Program

The program consists of 15 hours of training in a workshop setting taught by Extension Educators and staff featuring:

- Flipped classroom instruction (1-2 hours)
- Online learning opportunities
- Experiential training activities
- Field techniques
- Field trips to community rain gardens

Participants also gain hands-on experience by creating a demonstration rain garden project with community members in a public space.



Program Modules

Modules are three hours each and include:

- Introduction to rain gardens and other rainscaping practices (permeable pavement, rain barrels)
- Siting and sizing rain gardens
- Plant selection and rain garden design
- Installing and maintaining rain gardens
- Rainscaping and community engagement



Target audience

The program provides advanced training in rain garden planning, installation, and maintenance for:

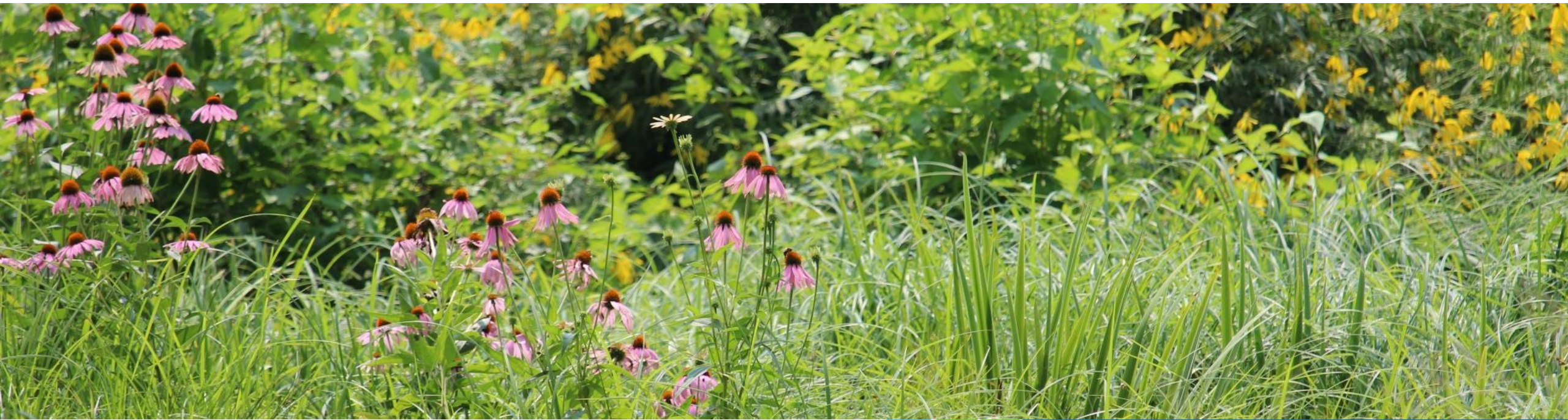
- Master Gardeners and Master Naturalists
- Conservation agencies and organizations
- Stormwater professionals
- Landscape companies and consultants
- Community members interested in rain gardens

Participants are encouraged to attend as a community team to support the implementation of public education programs and provide technical assistance to homeowners upon completion of the training.



Demonstration Rain Gardens

Extension hosts acquire the funding and conduct the pre-design work with partners for the demonstration rain garden. Gardens are typically \$5-\$10 per sq ft and vary in size.



Rainscaping Education Program Revisions Facilitated Questions



POLL 1

What additional information should the Rainscaping Program cover?



Target audience

- Master Gardeners and Master Naturalists
- Conservation agencies and organizations
- Stormwater professionals
- Landscape companies and consultants
- Community members interested in rain gardens



DISCUSSION

Are there other audiences or partners we should incorporate?

Are there certifications we should consider offering or tailoring training for these audiences?



Program delivery method

Depending on the Extension host's decision, the program is currently offered:

online — taught 100% online

hybrid — taught online, in-person demonstration rain garden

in-person — all training face-to-face



POLL 2

Do you have a recommendation on
the Rainscaping program format?



POLL 3

How much time should participants spend on home learning assignments outside of the classroom instruction?



Demonstration Rain Gardens

Extension hosts acquire the funding and conduct the pre-design work with partners for the demonstration rain garden.

The cost and time can be prohibitive to hosts.



DISCUSSION

Do you have suggestions for other models to incorporate a demonstration rain garden?



DISCUSSION

What additional comments do you have to share for the program update?



Next steps



go.illinois.edu/RainscapingEducation



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Round Robin Member Updates (time permitting)

*Members provide a 1- to 3-minute update
on current programs or projects*



Thank you!



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