



NEWS RELEASE
For Immediate Release
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RAIN GARDEN WORKSHOPS TO BE HELD IN NEBRASKA

The Groundwater Foundation, in cooperation with local partners, will host three rain garden workshops across Nebraska this spring. The workshops will each include an information session about rain gardens and their benefits followed by a demonstration installation of the rain garden in the community. The three Nebraska communities of Hastings, Stromsburg, and North Platte will have the opportunity to take control of their water quality through the installation of a professionally-designed rain garden. The workshops will provide participants with the knowledge, motivation, and take-home resources to help them plan and install a rain garden on their property to help control storm water runoff, utilize their rain water to beautify their landscape, and help to make a measurable difference in protecting the community's water resources.

A rain garden is an attractive garden of native shrubs, perennials, and flowers planted in a small depression, which is generally formed on a natural slope. It catches storm water runoff from rooftops, driveways, sidewalks, patios or lawns that would otherwise carry polluted water directly to our creeks, streams, and lakes. Rain gardens are effective in removing up to 90% of nutrients and chemicals and up to 80% of sediments from the rainwater runoff. Compared to a conventional lawn, rain gardens allow for 30% more water to soak into the ground. Benefits of rain gardens include: storm water runoff reduction which minimizes flooding and property damage threats, improvement of stream/lake water quality, low-cost conservation practice, provide wildlife habitat, simple installation, and provide an aesthetically pleasing landscape feature.

Each workshop has a registration fee of \$10. Registration is available online at www.groundwater.org or by calling 1-800-858-4844. The workshop will be led by members of The Groundwater Foundation staff and by a professional landscape designer.

Workshops include:

- Hastings, Nebraska - Saturday, May 30, 2009, 8:45 a.m. - 11:30 a.m., Hastings Museum
- Stromsburg, Nebraska - Saturday, June 6, 2009, 8:45 a.m. - 11:30 a.m., City Square
- North Platte, Nebraska - Saturday, June 27, 2009, 8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m., Cody Park Shelter

The workshops are co-sponsored by the City of Hastings and the Hastings Museum, the Stromsburg Water Department, and the City of North Platte. The workshops are supported through the US Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Water Act Section 319 as facilitated by the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality.

For more information about the workshops, please visit www.groundwater.org or contact Cindy Kreifels at 402-434-2740 or ckreifels@groundwater.org.

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The Groundwater Foundation is a non-profit organization based in Lincoln, Nebraska with a mission to educate and motivate the public to care about and for groundwater. Since its inception in 1985, the Foundation has offered various educational programming for youth and adults. To learn more, visit www.groundwater.org.