



Illinois Department of **Natural Resources**

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Marc Miller, Director

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Illinois Rain Garden Initiative Grants Awarded

SPRINGFIELD, IL – The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) and the Illinois Conservation Foundation (ICF) today announced that 19 Illinois Rain Garden Initiative grants have been awarded. Nearly \$16,000 will be distributed for rain garden projects from the fall 2010 and spring 2011 application periods.

“Through the Illinois Rain Garden Initiative, school children and communities have the opportunity to confront local flooding issues, assist in ground water recharge, develop wildlife habitat, reduce mowing and increase the use of native plants in Illinois landscapes,” said Marc Miller, IDNR Director. “The small amount of effort needed to install a rain garden can provide tremendous impacts in many ways for years to come.”

Established in 2005, the Illinois Rain Garden Initiative is funded by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Partners for Fish & Wildlife Program through a cooperative agreement with ICF. A rain garden is a depression that is planted with native vegetation. It is designed for and built in a location that will hold stormwater runoff or snow melt, allowing the water to be absorbed slowly by the plants and the soil. Incorporating rain barrels into the project can make it more sustainable.

The Illinois Rain Garden Initiative is being integrated into the Schoolyard Habitat Action Grant program sponsored by the IDNR Division of Education and ICF. For more information, visit <http://dnr.state.il.us/education/CLASSRM/grants.htm>, call (217) 524-4126 or email dnr.teachkids@illinois.gov.

Below are the recipients of the Illinois Rain Garden Initiative Grants:

Fall 2010

Cook County

Niles School District 71, Niles, \$703

Village of Hanover Park Environmental Committee, Hanover Park, \$980

Village of Wilmette, Wilmette, \$946

DuPage County

College of DuPage Horticulture Program, Naperville, \$470
Elmhurst Academy, Elmhurst, \$318
Francis Granger Middle School, School District #204, Aurora \$1,000

Spring 2011

Cook County

Flint Creek Watershed Partnership, Barrington, \$900
Park District of Franklin Park, Franklin Park, \$1,000
The American Indian Center, Chicago, \$1,000

Du Page County

Mill Street Elementary School, Naperville, \$250

Kane County

CUSD #300/Dundee Crown High School, Carpentersville, \$998.82
South Elgin Parks and Recreation, South Elgin, \$1,000

Kendall County

Grande Park Elementary School, Plainfield, \$1,000

Logan County

Lincoln FFA Chapter and Lincoln High School Horticulture Class, Lincoln, \$1,000

McHenry County

McHenry County College, Crystal Lake, \$616

McLean County

YouthBuild McLean County, Normal, \$1,000

Rock Island County

Eagle Ridge School, Silvis, \$1,000

Tazewell County

Washington Community High School District #308, Washington, \$939.52

Warren County

Monmouth College, Monmouth, \$740

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