

Grant # C9994861-08

Increasing Rain Garden Construction in the Bluegrass

Project #08-11

Grant Cycle from 03/15/13 – 12/31/15

Submitted by:

Kara Sayles

Environmental Educator & Rain Garden Project Coordinator



BLUEGRASS
GREENSOURCE

Funding for this project was provided in part by a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) through the Kentucky Division of Water, Nonpoint Source Section, to Bluegrass Greensource as authorized by the Clean Water Act Amendments of 1987, §319(h) Nonpoint Source Implementation Grant # C9994861-08 . Mention of trade names or commercial products, if any, does not constitute endorsement. This document was printed on recycled paper.”

Acknowledgments

Over the past two years Bluegrass Greensource has formed many partnerships with community groups with similar missions or interests in improving water quality in Central Kentucky. Many of them have worked with us longer than the duration of this grant cycle, and we would like to acknowledge their assistance in helping us to promote the construction of rain gardens and/or our program in Central Kentucky. These organizations are as follows, but not limited to:

- University of Kentucky Agricultural Extension
- Eco Gro
- CDP Engineers
- Klausing Group
- Kentucky River and Licking River Basin Coordinators
- The Wild Ones of Central Kentucky
- Shooting Star Nursery
- Springhouse Gardens
- Ruddles Mill Nursery
- Jessamine County Stormwater Engineer
- Scott County Stormwater Engineer
- Clark County Stormwater Professional
- Toyota of Georgetown
- Bourbon County Parks Department
- Scott County Conservation District
- McConnell Springs
- The Unitarian Universalist Church
- Midway Christian Church
- Bourbon County Library
- Sustainable Berea
- Homegrown Hideaways
- Madison County Conservation District
- Jessamine County Conservation District
- Clark County Conservation District

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Executive Summary

For ten years, Bluegrass Greensource has been educating and assisting homeowners to build rain gardens that limit run off into streams and storm sewers. Rain gardens are proven to reduce nonpoint source pollution in streams where urban runoff is a problem. Our goal is to increase awareness of water pollution, how it happens, and how to clean it up. We have educated residents on how to select an appropriate site, how to construct a rain garden, and what plants are suited. In addition, we feel residents need education on how to renovate, maintain, and care for a rain garden once it has been established.

Through our work with the Kentucky Division of Water and the 319h program our effort has been very successful, with 47 gardens built in our two-year grant cycle. A rain garden webpage is up and running and a very popular Rain Garden Manual has been produced and distributed. We have also created an online public space rain garden map. This map - enables visitors of the webpage to look further at existing rain gardens for possible inspiration for their own projects. This project was focused on homeowners in the six counties that border Fayette County: Bourbon, Clark, Jessamine, Madison, Scott and Woodford Counties. The efforts were later extended to Fayette County to increase the grant capacity. Throughout our program we provided direct educational opportunities to over 350 people by conducting 23 workshops, 3 tours, attending 8 community festivals and working with various school and scout groups.

An educational sign was created and distributed, and 20 have been placed in highly visible gardens. The sign gives information on rain gardens and their benefits to water quality, along with our website in hopes that residents can find more information easily.

It has been our goal, through these activities, to create a critical mass of rain gardens so that neighbor will learn from neighbor about the benefits and beauty they create. We believe that the combined efforts of Central Kentucky residents, our community partners and the 319 program have helped in taking giant steps in achieving that goal.

Introduction & Background

As the population has grown in the Central Kentucky area, numerous new subdivisions have sprung up in the six counties that surround Lexington. These communities have turned land that has been farmed or lain fallow for hundreds of years into patches of lawn, often competing for that perfect turf. As these communities have grown, so has the runoff pollution we associate with large lot to pavement ratios and high population density.

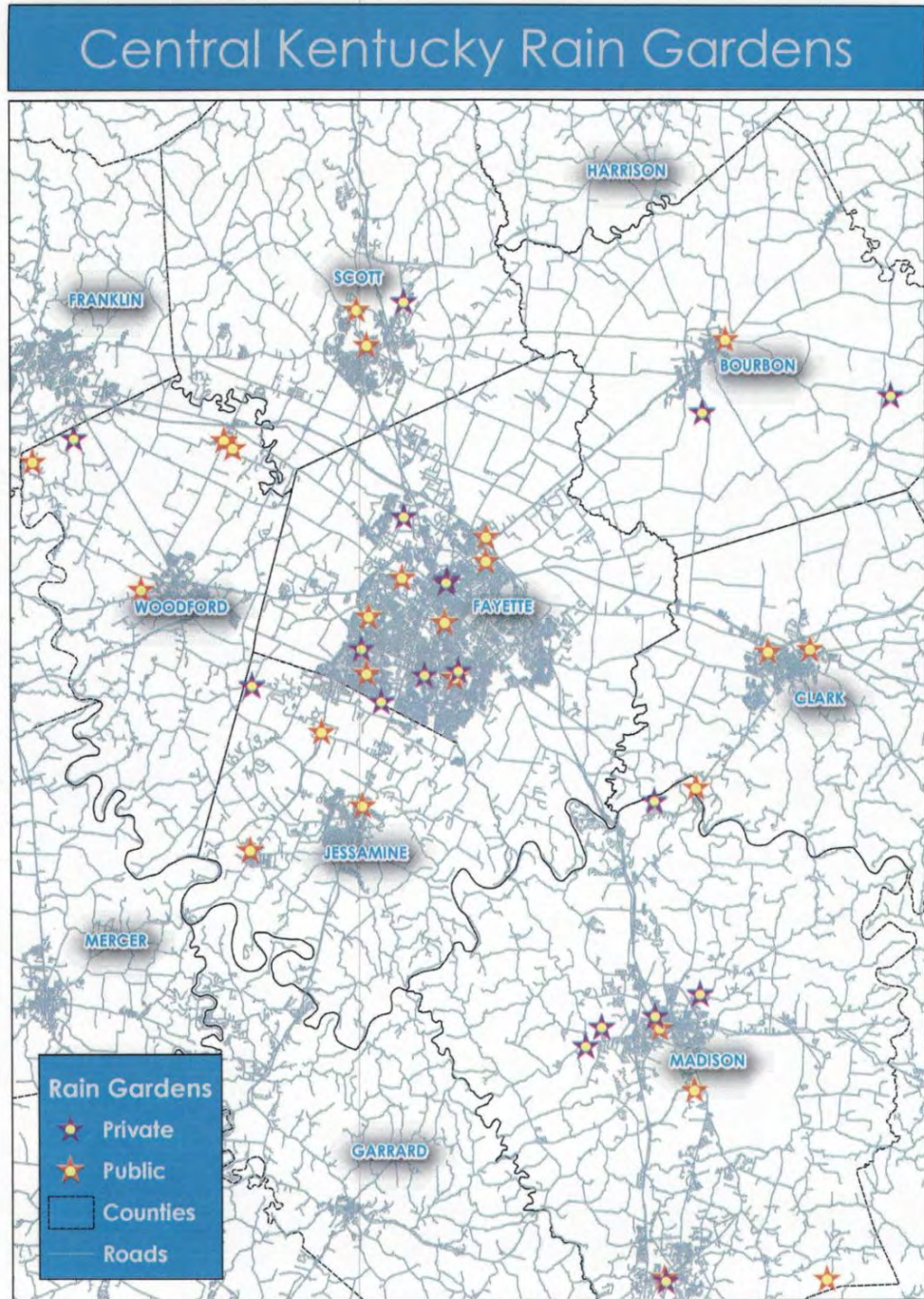
Through our work over the years, we have learned a lot about what our citizens know and what they need to know to address these issues. One of our first lessons learned is that few people understand what nonpoint source pollution is and how it affects water quality. They are unaware that their own actions (including excessive chemical use, inappropriate guttering, etc.) are adding to the problem. They are also unaware that there are fairly simple things they can do to ameliorate the problems.

Bluegrass Greensource, along with our community partners have been working with neighborhoods and citizens to help them understand the nonpoint source pollution problems associated with intense population density and lawn care and to help them adopt strategies, such as rain gardens, to address those problems.

Due to the water quality and volume issues related to urbanization, it is our objective to help residents of Central Kentucky install more rain gardens because, "Rain gardens are designed to retain runoff and encourage infiltration to ground water. Retention encourages uptake and biodegradation of compounds that may be present in the runoff. The assumption of rain-garden design is that sediment, nutrient, and other chemical removal occurs as the runoff comes in contact with the soil, bacteria, and roots of shrubs or other vegetation within the rain garden. It also is assumed that this process results in improved surface-water overflow quality, and improved quality and amount of ground water as a result of infiltration." (1)

Materials & Methods

Increasing Rain Gardens in Central Kentucky focused on homeowners in Fayette and the six surrounding counties: Bourbon, Clark, Jessamine, Madison, Scott and Woodford Counties. A map is provided below:



In the Phase One of the project we focused on public awareness. We began identifying and then contacting potential partners or supporters for the project.

- Submit BMP Implementation Plan to Kentucky Division of Water.
- Contact County extension agents, conservation district staff, and river basin coordinators and teams to enlist their help with publicity, education, recruitment, and technical assistance.
- Approach local neighborhood associations, garden clubs, and other groups to ask if we can make presentations, put articles in their newsletters, and/or send an email message to their members about rain gardens, the types of water pollution they can prevent and this project. Begin scheduling presentations. Provide Kentucky Division of Water with schedules of presentations and workshops as they are set.
- Approach local nurseries about the possibility of constructing model rain garden, distributing information and utilizing their assistance in creating the best information for rain garden participants as possible.
- After approval by Kentucky Division of Water staff, work with local media to air previously produced Public Service Announcement (available in the public domain), write newspaper articles, or appear on programs about nonpoint source pollution and the project.
- Attend local events to provide project information and general information about nonpoint source water pollution.
- Update existing webpage and the Rain Garden Manual, including addition of a section on maintenance. Submit to Kentucky Division of Water for approval. Print copies of the manual in anticipation of distribution.
- Secure dates and locations for county level workshops. Submit agendas for workshops and presentations to Kentucky Division of Water.

Phase TWO of our program was focused on recruitment and education. We continually contacted and recruited community groups to offer more direct educational programming about nonpoint source pollution in general, how rain gardens can help prevent certain types of water pollution, and how to construct a rain garden.

Methods used to implement this phase of the project were from our previously created Rain Garden Manual: <http://www.bggreensource.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/Copy-of-Rain-Garden-Manual.pdf>.

We also held workshops with University of Kentucky Agriculture Extension Services to promote rain garden maintenance and provided participants very similar information about constructing rain gardens. More information can be found on their webpage: <http://www2.ca.uky.edu/gogreen/raingarden.php#what>.

Phase two activities:

- Conducted presentations at neighborhood association meetings, Extension Offices and other venues (such as garden club meetings). Conduct before and after surveys of knowledge gained about how rain gardens can prevent certain types of water pollution.
- Contact those homeowners by mail, through neighborhood associations or local volunteers to provide information and invite them to a presentation (follow up as needed).
- Work with those nurseries that have native plant programs to clarify their role for providing information to interested individuals about how to get in touch with Bluegrass Greensource.
- As interested residents are identified, provide them with information about the website, workshop schedule, and a Rain Garden Manual. Gather contact information for anyone who shows interest. Continue to follow up on that interest.
- Held workshops in three counties.
- Administered before and after surveys to gauge knowledge gained.
- Distribute rain garden manuals to interested citizens.
- Provide training for landscape professionals on proper construction of rain gardens.

Phase Three, the implementation phase, occurred after residents had been recruited and trained. The following activities occurred in this phase:

- Bluegrass Greensource and community partners continued their involvement in recruitment and education. They were most active in this phase, helping residents map out rain garden sites and dimensions, choosing plants, and in some cases, assisting with the actual construction of the garden.
- Bluegrass Greensource continued workshops and presentations, and perhaps even some recruitment.
- Working with native plants nurseries to help residents find plants needed to build rain gardens, as well as ordering and installing signage for public space gardens
- Photos of public space rain gardens added to the webpage.
- Another ongoing task was to register completed rain gardens on the webpage.
- An online rain garden calculator from the Three River Rain Garden Alliance was used in help residents mentioned and used in calculating volume of water captured: <http://raingardenalliance.org/right/calculator>
- In the summer of 2014, The Project Coordinator planed and held a rain garden tour in three counties. This involved working with the media to advertise the tours, as well as setting up dates, contacting landowners, and guiding each tour.
- Finally, the Project Coordinator identified an agency in each county to continue to promote the construction of rain gardens.

Results & Discussion

Our project has reached over 350 residents in the seven counties that were served by this project. They have been given the tools to better understand nonpoint source pollution, how rain gardens can reduce such pollution, and even more importantly, will believe they have the ability to reduce such pollution through their personal actions.

In an effort to promote the availability of rain garden grants, Bluegrass Greensource ran the following advertising campaigns:

- 146 radio advertisements, which had an estimated reach of 103,400 listeners per ad
- 110 television advertisements, which had an average total reach of 385,500
- 9 newspaper advertisements with an estimated reach of 50,000
- 9 newsletter articles, reaching an estimated 4,500 subscribers per article
- 21 social media posts with an actual total reach of 8,195
- 2 radio interviews
- 1 television interview
- 50 posters
- 6,250 direct mail postcards
- 1 PSA created to advertise workshops:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5GDJnhN6V64>

The rain garden grant was also the topic of 9 different newspaper articles, which had an estimated reach of 50,000 through circulation.

Samples of social media posts, print advertisements, and newspaper articles can be found in the Appendix C.

Workshops resulted in:

- 47 rain gardens constructed during the project
- A total BMP square footage of 6,250 sqft.
- Incorporated an estimated volume of 18,000 gallons of water per 1 inch rainfall event
- 47 rain gardens registered on the website
- 27 landscape professionals trained
- Website continually updated
- Over 350 people who attend workshops and presentations about NPS pollution and rain gardens
- Approximates 600 rain garden manuals requested and distributed
- 5 nurseries participated in helping with native plant and promoting the program

- 23 workshops and presentations held
- 20 rain garden signs installed
- Created the Central Kentucky Rain Garden Map, <http://arcg.is/1HtJuKt>
- On the workshop evaluation forms, 80% of people indicated that their level of understanding had increased about the effects stormwater has on water bodies
- On the workshop evaluation forms 96% of people said that their level of understanding of what rain gardens are, their benefits, and the effect they have on stormwater had increased.

Conclusions

In conclusion, Increasing Rain Garden Construction in the Bluegrass has significantly increased awareness of water pollution in the seven counties serviced under this contract.

We have used word-of-mouth and various social media outlets to bring residents to more in-depth presentations and workshops to provide direct education about rain garden constructions. We have developed educational tools for homeowners and student groups and will continue to be a resource for information about rain gardens in Central Kentucky. With more than 350 individuals being directly impacted by our program we have.....

There have been many lessons learned by our staff during the implementation of our program. In the first year of the grant we allotted too much time for participants to return the grant application. When we only allowed two weeks to turn the application in many more residents signed up. Also we found that not only homeowners were interested in rain garden grants to help with construction cost, but public groups such as schools, churches, and community centers wanted help as well.

The grant cycle was another concern with our program. If we had a three year grant cycle for the project it would have been easier to facilitate our program. The lesson learned in the first year took a toll on the project and the timeframe was not long enough to recover. We facilitated the bulk of our grant in the last quarter. This was also largely due to the fact that we opened the grant in Fayette County where folks were looking for grant funding for rain gardens.

Finally, several rain gardens needed maintenance help throughout the program. It is very important that the general public understands how to care for a rain garden once it is established. Several workshops explaining mature garden care were conducted during this program and should benefit the participants that

constructed gardens significantly in the maintenance and longevity of their rain gardens.

Literature Cited

Effects of Rain Gardens on the Quality of Water in the Minneapolis–St. Paul Metropolitan Area of Minnesota, 2002-04 By Lan H. Tornes Scientific Investigations Report 2005-5189 U.S. Department of the Interior U.S. Geological Survey

Appendices

A. Financial and Administrative Closeout

Milestones Completed

1. Submit BMP plan to Kentucky Division of Water
2. Through letters, phone calls and visits, introduce Bluegrass Greensource and the Bluegrass Rain Garden Alliance to people in each county who may be of help in the project. (E.g. local environmental groups, local officials, garden clubs, neighborhood associations, etc.)
3. Update Rain Garden Manual and continually update website
4. Submit updated Rain Garden Manual and website to Kentucky Division of Water for approval
5. Print copies of Rain Garden Manual
6. Approach local nurseries about constructing model rain gardens (during March of each year)
7. Approach local groups (e.g. neighborhood associations, garden clubs) to ask for assistance in spreading the word about NPS pollution and the Rain Garden Project
8. Approach local media for help spreading the word about NPS pollution and the Rain Garden Project
9. Submit all social media materials (e.g. PSA's, model articles, etc.) to Kentucky Division of Water
10. Conduct social marketing campaign about NPS pollution and Rain Garden Project (using conventional media, newsletters, social media, and word of mouth)
11. Attend local events to provide NPS pollution and Project info. Notify Division of Water prior to events
12. Assist local nurseries to ensure proper installation of rain gardens. Ensure they understand their role in the project (in each year)
13. With assistance from local partners, identify neighborhood residents who live

<p>directly streamside. Contact them to participate in the project through mail (and follow-up)</p>
<p>14. Follow up and provide education and information to all those interested in the project</p>
<p>15. Schedule and hold workshops and presentations in each county including workshops for landscape professionals. Notify Division of Water prior to all such events. Keep tallies of number of professionals trained. Submit lists of scheduled events to Kentucky Division of Water along with agendas and before and after surveys</p>
<p>16. Distribute Rain Garden Manuals as requested and keep tally of how many distributed in each county</p>
<p>17. Provide direct education and assistance to those residents who wish to construct a rain garden; Conduct in person interviews with those residents about how they decided to build a rain garden.</p>
<p>18. Keep a database of all relevant contact information to share with county partners at the end of the project.</p>
<p>19. Procure and distribute native plants for rain gardens</p>
<p>20. Held rain garden tours in three Counties. Notify Division of Water prior to each tour.</p>
<p>21. Identify one partner in each county to be repository of information about rain gardens.</p>
<p>22. Conduct analysis of number of participating residents in each county with number of media contacts and volunteer hours expended.</p>
<p>23. Keep records of all activities including media, presentations, workshops, website hits, rain gardens constructed, signage placed, etc.</p>
<p>24. Prepare and submit annual reports to Kentucky Division of Water as requested</p>
<p>25. Prepare and submit final report to Kentucky Division of Water</p>

Budget Summary

Detailed Budget from application:				Final Expenditures as of December 2, 2015
	319(h) Dollars \$	Match \$	Total \$	\$
Personnel	54,403.00	73,010.00	127,413.00	120,333.55
Supplies	23,250.00	1,125.00	24,375.00	21,336.49
Equipment	-	-	-	
Travel	2,925.00	-	2,925.00	1,752.65
Contractual	15,000.00	6,795.00	21,795.00	19,735.91
Operating Cost	27,850.00	1,355.00	29,205.00	26,979.38
Other	-	-	-	
Total	<u>\$ 123,428.00</u>	<u>\$ 82,285.00</u>	<u>\$205,713.00</u>	<u>\$ 190,137.98</u>

Bluegrass Greensource will be reimbursed \$114,082.79 (60% of 190,137.98) for work completed as of December 2, 2015. A total of \$15,575.02 remains to be spent during the month of December, 2015 on staff time and educational material for schools and the general public. This is in effort to insure a continuation of our rain garden program after the grant cycle (approved by KDOW). December 31, 2015 Bluegrass Greensource will total \$123,428.00 (60% of the grant amount of \$205,713.)

Special Grant Conditions

Due to interest and a need to facilitate the remaining grants in July of 2015, the rain garden program was offered to Fayette County residents. We worked with churches, the Extension Office and McConnell Springs to host workshops in the county. Also many homeowner associations, school groups and community partners were contacted about the grant opportunity. We were given permission to purchased educational material to promote the program on a continual basis and we will be adding this to our Resource Library as a community resource we can offer for years to come.

B. KDOW Approved Implementation Plan

BMP Implementation Plan for Project #08-11

Increasing Rain Gardens in the Bluegrass

List of BMP Technologies to be installed

- **Rain Garden:** A garden planted with native perennials, built with a shallow depression in the bottom, and located in the path of stormwater runoff (from a gutter, parking lot, roof, yard, or any impervious surface) to catch and hold the rainwater.
- **Vegetative Buffer Zone:** An area directly adjacent to a body of water existing of plants. Buffer zones typically include aquatic plants in shallow water, moisture-loving plants along the shore, and upland plants in dry soils.
- **Native Plants:** Site specific native plants, grasses, trees and shrubs will be planted to aid in infiltration, evapotranspiration, soil absorption, aesthetics and habitat for native animals and insects.
- **Organic mulch, soil and filter media:** A good soil goes a long way; adding compost, peat moss hardwood mulch to a rain garden can add aeration to the soil and help infiltration rates in heavily clayed soils.
- **Flow Entrance and Exit:** Roof leaders, trench drains, gravel and sand, dorm risers, underground or above ground tubes and piping can be laid to direct the stormwater in and out of the rain garden.
- **Terrace:** Around homes with step sloping yards a terracing garden may be needed to slow the water and help with infiltration.

The Process

- **Introduction of Project**
 - Via phone calls, emails and meetings, Bluegrass Greensource will introduce the project to people in each county. (E.g. local environmental groups, local officials, nurseries, garden clubs, neighborhood associations, etc.)

- **Nurseries**
 - We will approach local nurseries about the funding available to host a rain garden workshop with on site construction
 - Eight nurseries will receive \$250 grants to install a rain garden on their property.

- **Neighborhood/ Community**
 - Through our initial contacts we will initiate communication with specific neighborhood groups, garden clubs or homeowners to host a workshop on rain garden construction. We will use the local nurseries as well as other project partners to help conduct this workshop.
 - Approximately eight, \$250 grants will be given to homeowners in each county to purchase plant materials to use in their gardens.

- **Selection**
 - The selection of rain garden sites that receive funds for plants will be decided by Bluegrass Greensource. The recipients of the grants must attend the workshop in their counties and complete the application process; Please see **Appendix A**.
 - Visibility of the garden will have the number one priority for selection
 - Even distribution of funds to the counties is also a consideration.
 - Before receiving funding for plants the homeowner agrees to participate in the county's garden tour and will sign a maintenance agreement.
 - All participants must also agree to allow Bluegrass Greensource and the Division of Water a site visit during the tour and pre and post construction of the rain garden.
 - Homeowners must also be willing to track the time they spend as well as other community helpers spend constructing their rain gardens

- **Outreach**
 - During the first summer Bluegrass Greensource will start to working with previous partners, adding to the rain garden data base and working to update our rain garden webpage.
 - This will include gathering feedback and input of the partners availability to participate in this grant
 - Obtaining information from other partners to update website and numbers of rain gardens constructed

- Adding sections to existing Rain Garden Manual and having it printed for distribution
 - Creating outreach and media material to be submitted for approval by DOW.
- **Maintenance**
 - Each homeowner and nursery who receives funding will be responsible for upkeep of their rain garden; please see **Appendix B**.
 - All must be available for their county's rain garden tour and allow Bluegrass Greensource and the Division of Water to visit during the tour and pre or post construction of rain garden.
- **Tour**
 - A tour will be conducted in each county.
 - Each garden built or pre-existing gardens will be reviewed for proximity to one another and attractiveness before gardens are selected
 - Once gardens are selected Bluegrass Greensource will select a date for the rain garden tour for each county
 - Participants will be able to view all gardens during the time frame set
 - Bluegrass Greensource will create a flyer with times and addresses of all rain gardens on the tour
 - Local media outlets will be notified
- **Data**
 - Bluegrass Greensource will continue to gather information about rain garden in Central Kentucky, acting as a coordinator for all groups working toward building more rain gardens in Central Kentucky.

KY DOW Notification Procedure for BMP Implementation

We will work closely with the NPS Section Technical Advisor and notify them before any BMP implementation begins via email. We will include information about educational opportunities we are offering in the communities, locations, dates and description of any chosen BMP for specific sites. These will all be submitted to the Kentucky Department of Water prior to any major event conducted under this 319 grant.

Financial Plan of Action and Financial Assistance

The rain garden budget is as follows and will be divided as equally as possible between the six counties. The money for plants and gardens at local nurseries will be used for those recipients who meet grant requirement for this program.

- Print 2500 more rain garden manuals@ \$3.00 each \$7500
- \$250 grants to 8 local nurseries to install model Rain Gardens at their business sites \$2000
- \$250 in native plants to the 50 qualified grant recipients \$12,500
Among homeowners
 - Selection process to identify which homeowners will receive funding for native plants is as follows:
 - Each homeowner will need to attend a workshop to be considered for a rain garden grant.
 - Visibility
 - Equal division between the counties
 - Availability to participate in Rain Garden Tour and willingness to sign the maintenance agreement
 - The grants for plant material either reimbursements or direct payments to the nurseries.

B. Advertising Campaign Products

Social Media Post Example 1



Bluegrass Greensource
Published by Crystal Marie Collett Barnes [?] - August 6 - Edited · 🌐

We are now offering rain garden grants in Fayette County! Visit www.bggreensource.org/rain-gardens for details!



Rain Garden Opportunities
Grants available in
BOURBON, CLARK, JESSAMINE
MADISON, SCOTT, WOODFORD,
AND FAYETTE

809 people reached Boost Post

👍 Like 💬 Comment ➦ Share

Kara Benge Sayles, Chris Porter, Danny Ray Woolums and 11 others like this.

1 share

 Write a comment...  

Social Media Post Example 2

 **Bluegrass Greensource** Published by Crystal Marie Collett Barnes [?] · July 6 · 🌐

Join us for rain garden tours this weekend in Midway, Berea, and Georgetown! Participants may be eligible for a \$250 grant!



July 10	July 11	July 12
6:30 - 8:30	1:00 - 4:00	1:00 - 4:00
Midway Christian Church 123 E Bruen St. Midway	Union Church 200 Prospect St. Berea	Scott County Public Library 104 S Bradford Ln. Georgetown

572 people reached [Boost Post](#)

 Like  Comment  Share

Marty Williamson, Kenya Stump, ReForest Frankfort and 4 others like this.

15 shares

Poster



Rain Garden Tours

Tour beautiful, established rain gardens and learn how to start your own! Participants may be eligible for a \$250 grant. Visit www.bgGreensource.org for details!

July 10 6:30 - 8:30 Midway Christian Church 123 E Bruen St. Midway	July 11 1:00 - 4:00 Union Church 200 Prospect St. Berea	July 12 1:00 - 4:00 Scott County Public Library 104 S Bradford Ln. Georgetown
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 **BLUEGRASS GREENSOURCE**

This work was funded in part by a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency under §319(h) of the Clean Water Act.

Direct Mail Postcard



Front



Back

Newspaper Advertisement

<h1>Rain Garden Tours</h1>		
July 10	July 11	July 12
6:30 - 8:30	1:00 - 4:00	1:00 - 4:00
Midway	Berea	Georgetown
Details at bgGreenSource.org or call 859-266-1572.		
 BLUEGRASS GREENSOURCE		
<small>This work was funded in part by a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency under §319(h) of the Clean Water Act.</small>		

Subscribe!

Richmond club learns about rain gardens

Posted: Sunday, August 9, 2015 1:15 pm

The Richmond Garden Club met Tuesday afternoon, July 28, at the Richmond Area Arts Council.

Club Co-presidents Carol Rogow and Melba Hay, called the meeting to order.

Rogow thanked the club hostesses, Teresa Tope and Shirley Bortolon, for the delicious refreshments and their beautiful table decorations which featured a beach theme.

Betty Curtis Worthington was introduced as a new club member.

Rogow recognized the exhibitors for the day and asked each of them to tell about their exhibit.

The flower exhibitors included Shirley Bortolon, whose exhibit theme was “Artistic – Splash of Summer – A Reflective Design,” and Cindy Palka, Jan Tunnell and Kim Owens, whose exhibit theme was “Horticulture.”

Nancy Thames introduced the guest speaker, Kara Sayles, of Bluegrass GreenSource, who spoke on the topic of “Rain Gardens,” which reduce storm-water runoff, improve water quality, and enhance landscape.

Sayles detailed the benefits of rain gardens. They include:

- Significantly filtering and reducing runoff before it enters local waterways and groundwater
- Reducing drainage problems and localized flooding
- Conserving water and reducing pollution
- Attracting birds, bees and butterflies
- Recharging the groundwater supply.

According to Sayles, rain gardens not only look beautiful, they also create a habitat for local wildlife,



Richmond Garden Club

From left, in front of the refreshments table, are hostesses Shirley Bortolon and Teresa Tope with guest speaker Kara Sayles, of Bluegrass GreenSource, at the Richmond Garden Club meeting July 28.

such as butterflies, dragonflies and birds.

The goal of a rain garden is to capture water runoff before it enters the stormwater system.

Native plant species are recommended for rain gardens, Sayles said, because of their extensive root systems and tolerance to local weather conditions and fluctuations. Their deep root structures also break up the soil and help more water infiltrate into the ground.

Sayles distributed applications to Richmond Garden Club members who were interested in applying for \$250 grants to establish rain gardens in their yards or in public areas of Madison County.

The rain garden program of Bluegrass GreenSource is funded in part by a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Ruth Wolfe presented the Richmond Garden Club Monarch Waystation and Butterfly Garden Committee report. She said the committee had met and discussed what kind of border to install around the garden and asked club members to sign up for a week during the rest of the summer to weed the butterfly garden.

The Butterfly Garden Committee also includes Angie Wright, Lolly Rist and Bonnie Lewis.

Jerry Jenkins reported on the Richmond Garden Club's project at the Morning Pointe assisted living facility in which club members demonstrated and then helped Morning Pointe residents in creating flower arrangements.

She also reported on the the club's participation in providing garden supplies for the resident of the new house recently dedicated by Habitat for Humanity.

In conclusion, Jenkins reported on the progress of the club's point system for special projects.

Jan Tunnell, chairman of the club's planning committee, presented program details for August.

Betty Murphy will host the garden club Wednesday, Aug. 26, at 10 a.m. The speaker will be Joanne Kirby, a past president of the Kentucky Garden Club Association.

Tunnell also said the club will assist with decorating for the Richmond Area Arts Council's annual Arts Gala at the home of Marty and Pattie Baker on Sept. 11.

Co-president Melba Hay announced that the district garden club meeting will take place Oct. 2 at Crestwood in Oldham County, northeast of Louisville. Members who wish to attend should obtain and complete a form and then submit it to Hay by the garden club's Aug. 26 meeting.