



Illinois Department of Natural Resources

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Pat Quinn, Governor
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Recipients of Illinois Rain Garden Initiative Grants Announced

SPRINGFIELD, IL – The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) and the Illinois Conservation Foundation (ICF) today announced the recipients of the spring 2010 *Illinois Rain Garden Initiative* grants. Nearly \$8,000 will be distributed to help organizations across the state construct rain gardens in their communities.

“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 IDNR Director Marc Miller. “The small amount of effort needed to install a rain garden can provide tremendous impacts in many ways.”

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.

Established in 2005, the *Illinois Rain Garden Initiative* was initially administered by the Office of then-Lieutenant Governor Pat Quinn. The program is now administered by the ICF with funding provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Teachers and staff of nonprofit organizations and public institutions may apply for *Illinois Rain Garden Initiative* grants. Applications are now being accepted for the November 30, 2010, application deadline. For more information, please visit the IDNR website at <http://dnr.state.il.us/education/CLASSRM/grants.htm>, call 217-524-4126 or email dnr.teachkids@illinois.gov.

The recipients of the spring 2010 *Illinois Rain Garden Initiative* grants are:

Cook County

Friends of the Parks, Chicago - \$1,000.00.

Spring Valley Nature Center/Schaumburg Park District, Schaumburg - \$931.35.

Du Page County

Village of Roselle, Roselle - \$1,000.00.

Kankakee County

Kankakee Community College, Kankakee - \$1,000.00.

Kendall County

Oswegoland Park District, Oswego - \$1,000.00.

McLean County

Ecology Action Center, Normal - \$921.00.

Stephenson County

University of Illinois Extension Master Gardeners in Stephenson County, Freeport - \$973.25.

Will County

Midwin Interpretive Association, Wilmington - \$1,000.00.