

Citizens League seeks volunteers for rain garden projects at two Twin Cities schools

Students at MCTC and St. Bernard's High School will learn environmental stewardship through service learning projects this spring and summer

Two Twin Cities schools will take action to reduce the pollutants in storm water runoff in their urban environments this spring. Minneapolis Community and Technical College (MCTC) students and St. Bernard's High School students will install rain gardens on school property and maintain the rain gardens throughout the summer.

The Citizens League's Energy and Environment Action Group is supporting the rain garden projects by providing the schools with donated native plants, volunteers, and consultations with environmental planning and education experts. The organization also assisted St. Bernard's in applying for a funding grant from the Capitol Region Watershed District in St. Paul, which will cover part of the cost of that rain garden.

Students participating in the project will benefit from a service-learning experience that will instill the values of environmental stewardship and civic consciousness along with teamwork and project management skills.

The project will bring native prairie into the urban setting. Students will create a beautiful native garden that will allow the study of the biological processes of a variety of native Minnesota prairie and wetland plants as well as the natural processes that protect water quality. The rain garden project will help empower students to realize the great effects that actions of a small, driven group can have on the community as a whole.

Inter District Downtown School students will also be involved and benefit from the educational component of the project.

The Citizens League is looking for additional volunteers with education or environmental backgrounds to assist in rain garden installation and educational planning this spring. If you want to offer your time and skills to this initiative please contact one of the project co-chairs:

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