



City of Burnsville

100 Civic Center Parkway, Burnsville, MN 55337

Phone: 952-895-4400

Fax: 952-895-4404

www.burnsville.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact:

Caleb Ashling

Natural Resources

952-895-4543

RESIDENTS INVITED TO ATTEND FREE WORKSHOPS ON CREATING NATIVE PLANT GARDENS

Create beautiful gardens that help keep Burnsville's waterways clean – that's what Burnsville residents will be invited to do during two "Blue Thumb" workshops this spring.

What: Planting for Clean Water Workshops
When: March 4 and April 9
6:15 to 8 p.m.
Where: Burnsville City Hall, 100 Civic Center Parkway

During the workshops, participants will learn how to build and maintain their own native and rain gardens. These gardens filter storm water runoff, which carries pollutants to lakes and streams through storm drains. Building a native garden is an easy way for homeowners to add a beautiful landscape to their property while also creating clean water for the environment.

Experts from the Dakota County Soil and Watershed Conversation District will teach all "Planting for Clean Water" workshops. They will also showcase dozens of affordable and inspirational local native gardens, rain gardens and native shoreline stabilization projects that transform bland urban landscapes into beautiful retreats that benefit local water quality.

Design and installation assistance is available to attendees after the workshop. Some residents who attend will also qualify for a \$250 Blue Thumb grant through Dakota County to install their new gardens. The City of Burnsville also offers grants of up to \$1,000 for residents with qualified water quality improvement projects. Attending Blue Thumb workshops is not a requirement of the Burnsville grants but is viewed favorably and strengthens grant applications.

Registration is required by visiting www.dakotacountyswcd.org/bluethumb.html or calling 651-480-7777.

For more information on the Blue Thumb workshops and the Burnsville Natural Resources Department visit www.burnsville.org/bluethumb. Residents can also attend the introductory workshop in Apple Valley on Feb. 28 or April 4, Hastings on March 12, South St. Paul on March 14, Eagan on March 25, Lakeville on March 27, Farmington on April 1 or Mendota Heights on April 17.

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