



City of Burnsville

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Natural Resources

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RESIDENTS INVITED TO ATTEND FREE WORKSHOPS ON CREATING NATIVE PLANT GARDENS

Burnsville residents are invited to learn how to create beautiful gardens that help keep Burnsville's waterways clean – and provide a habitat for pollinating insects – during two upcoming “Blue Thumb” workshops.

What: Blue Thumb: Planting for Clean Water
When: Feb. 25 OR April 9
6:15 to 8 p.m.
Where: Burnsville City Hall, 100 Civic Center Parkway
Cost: FREE

During the workshops, participants will learn how to build and maintain native and rain gardens. These gardens help filter storm water runoff, stopping pollutants from flowing to lakes and streams through storm drains. They also add beauty to a yard, and provide a habitat for pollinating insects such as butterflies.

Experts from the Dakota County Soil and Watershed Conversation District will teach the workshops, and showcase dozens of affordable and inspirational local native gardens, rain gardens and native shoreline stabilization projects that transform bland urban landscapes into beautiful retreats.

Design and installation assistance is available to attendees. 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.

Registration is required by emailing swcd@co.dakota.mn.us or calling 651-480-7777. Visit www.dakotacountyswcd.org/bluethumb.html for more information.

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 Feb. 19 or April 7, Lakeville on March 3, West St. Paul on March 30, Farmington on April 1 or June 1 and Hastings Spring Lake Park on April 20.

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