



# City of Burnsville

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Natural Resources

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## **DO YOU WANT TO BUILD A RAIN GARDEN?**

*Free 'How To' Workshop for Residents April 9*

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 an upcoming “Blue Thumb” workshop.

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

During the workshop, participants will learn how native plant and rain gardens work, and how they help local water quality. 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 habitat for pollinating insects such as butterflies.

Experts from the Dakota County Soil and Watershed Conversation District will teach the workshop, 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](mailto:swcd@co.dakota.mn.us) or calling 651-480-7777. Visit [www.dakotacountyswcd.org/bluethumb.html](http://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](http://www.burnsville.org/bluethumb). Residents can also attend the introductory workshop in 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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