

*For Immediate Release & Posting*

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*Raingardens and Beyond: Healthy Yards, Clean Water*

*You can help keep our lakes, rivers and streams clean by the simple changes you make in your yard care choices. This workshop explores the latest in healthy yard care practices, including proper use of fertilizers, disposal and reuse of yard waste, keeping sidewalks ice free and managing runoff onsite. This workshop is designed to move participants quickly from an overview of healthy yard care practices to a completed raingarden design for their property with one on one assistance from Metro Blooms landscape designers and Hennepin County Master Gardeners. Register now. Some locations fill up fast. The \$15 workshops will be offered from mid-April to mid-June:*

<i>Date</i>	<i>Day</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Location</i>
<i>24-Apr</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>6 - 9 pm</i>	<i>Brooklyn Park Community Center</i>
<i>25-Apr</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>6 - 9 pm</i>	<i>St. Louis Park Rec Center</i>
<i>27-Apr</i>	<i>Saturday</i>	<i>10 - 1 pm</i>	<i>Audubon Park Rec Center, Minneapolis</i>
<i>9-May</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>6 - 9 pm</i>	<i>Nokomis Park Rec Center, Minneapolis</i>
<i>11-May</i>	<i>Saturday</i>	<i>9 - 12 pm</i>	<i>Longfellow Park Rec Center, Minneapolis</i>
<i>14-May</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>6 - 9 pm</i>	<i>Brooklyn Center Community Center</i>
<i>15-May</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>6 - 9 pm</i>	<i>Brookview Community Center, Golden Valley</i>
<i>16-May</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>6 - 9 pm</i>	<i>St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church, Minneapolis</i>
<i>21-May</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>6 - 9 pm</i>	<i>Plymouth City Hall</i>
<i>1-Jun</i>	<i>Saturday</i>	<i>1 - 4 pm</i>	<i>North Regional Library, Minneapolis</i>

*Whether you are an experienced gardener or have never tried gardening before, these eco-friendly gardening workshops will help you learn how to:*

- Capture rainwater on site with raingardens.*
- Redirect our downspouts and install a rain barrel.*
- Plan your own garden with one-on-one assistance from landscape designers and Hennepin County Master Gardeners.*
- Use beautiful native plants in your garden landscape.*
- Adopt healthy yard care practices for you and for our clean waters.*

*Participants are also eligible for a low-cost onsite consultation and raingarden design rendering from a landscape design professional.*

*“Metro Blooms has been partnering with Twin Cities Metro communities to provide low-cost raingarden workshops since 2005,” said Metro Blooms Executive Director Becky Rice. “Over 6,000 residents have attended our workshops and over 2,000 raingardens have been installed.”*

*To register, visit [www.metroblooms.org](http://www.metroblooms.org) or call 651-699-2426. Fee: \$15 per workshop. Sponsored by the cities of Minneapolis, St. Louis Park, Plymouth, Brooklyn Park, Brooklyn Center, New Hope, Golden Valley, Crystal, Robbinsdale, and the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District, Elm Creek Watershed Management Commission, Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission, and Shingle Creek and West Mississippi Watershed Management Organization.*

*Metro Blooms, a non-profit organization, works to strengthen communities by promoting environmentally-sound landscaping that beautifies neighborhoods and protects our environment.*