**Rainscaping 1- Assessment and Concept Understanding**

**April 25, 2015**

**9 am- 3 pm**

**Location TBD**

**Before this course begins:**

* Each participant will bring as many photographs of water quality BMPs that they can find AND an aerial photograph of their property (or a neighbor’s property).

**Brief Course Description**: The focus of this course is for participants to understand what background information is needed for a successful project design, where projects can be located in the field to meet water quality and aesthetic goals, and how to create a toolbox for projects. We will also cover common design problems, and when to ask for help.

**Learning Goals and Assessments:**

1. Understanding Site Assessment –The class will visit residential sites to discuss an effective method for site assessment.
   1. Design always involves limitations and parameters. While wondering, what are the realities that need to be considered while designing?

Wonder Wander

1. Knowing what should be in the Project Toolbox – Class participants will look at tool options, create a list of tools that can be used on-site and discuss the advantages and disadvantages of each.
   1. How can some tools be used together? How would combining tools improve a project?
   2. Which tools would be most effective for a homeowner and why?
   3. Which tools would be more appropriate to use on a commercial property and why?
2. Understanding Considerations for Designing Effective Rainscaping – the class will participate in exercises to solve water quality issues on residential sites.
   1. The class will complete an exercise and discuss in class the benefits for each potential location. Determine: were we able to retain all runoff on site? Is stopping all the water on site important?
   2. Evaluating the rainscape options by running the scenarios through a pollutant calculator. Which options are more effective and rank them from best to fair?
3. Effective Problem Solving – The class will discuss common problems and discuss possible solutions.
   1. We will then return to the example exercise previously completed and provide if/then questions to determine if the project would be modified. Now would we modify a site plan?
   2. Also, a good designer will have an Option B ready that if an unexpected issue arises in the field. What is a back-up solution or solutions for this project?
   3. How do you test if a potential project will be successful?
4. Understanding Raingarden Siting – Participants will work through handouts as individuals and in groups to determine where a raingarden will work on three sites.
   1. This is a culmination of the previous exercises into a new site to determine how many options are found on a site and then prioritize which of the options from strongest to weakest.
   2. Which options would you do if the budget allows for only one option?
   3. What is your back-up plan B?
   4. Can you do this on your own now? If not, what is needed to be able to move forward?

**Course requirements:**

* Attendance and Participation (Required, unless previously cleared with Program Manager)
* Expectations for Preparation will be for each participant to bring as many photographs of water quality BMP’s that they can find AND an aerial photograph of their property (or a neighbor’s property).

**To prepare for the next course:**

* Each participant will bring a calculator, engineering scale if available, scratch paper and a plant list or two for a raingarden. The plant list can be from a website or created by the participant.