**Rainscaping 2**

**May 25, 2015**

**6 pm- 9 pm**

**Lyndale Farmstead Rec Center**

**3900 Bryant Ave. S  
Minneapolis, MN 55409   
Phone: 612 370-4948**

**Brief Course Description**: This session will build on Rainscaping 1 to provide a more detailed discussion about raingarden design, conveyance systems, rain barrels, plant selection and planting

**Learning Goals and Assessments:**

1. Investigating Soils and Infiltration -The class will participate in soil assessment and conducting a percolation test
   1. How do soils affect the success of our project?
   2. Can we even use infiltration practice on this location, if not, what tools should be consider?
   3. How do the soils modify our project details?

2. Understanding Rain Barrel Details Construction and Installation - Class participants will create a list of important steps to install a barrel.

a. How can you make a rain barrel out of any material available, a DIY barrel?

b. Which locations are more effective than others on a site?

c. Summarize the functions of a rain barrel and how they are part of your tool box

3.Understanding Conveyance System Details, Construction and Installation - Class participants will create sketches to learn how to design different type of conveyance systems.

a. After knowing what the tools are from the previous class, we will get into the details of the conveyance systems. If water is entering a basement as it pools near the house, which conveyance systems would you consider to dry out the basement and why?

b. In your groups, create a materials list for your system that will be needed to construct this system. What tools would you need to get the materials to a project in a backyard?

c. Which factors make the project easier or harder to construct using your system?

4. Developing Raingarden Details - Participants will review the process of locating raingardens, learn how big and deep raingardens should be, how to dig raingardens, and other details of the installation process. Class participants will conduct the calculations that are key to raingarden planning for three sites.

a. After last class, the students know approximately the location of the garden, however the questions now are how big and or deep does this garden need to be constructed? Using the previous class exercise with new information provided by the instructor, determine the size and depth of a garden.

b. How might these construction details make it necessary or advantageous to move the garden location?

c. How much work will it take to construct this garden? If labor seems excessive, how would the design be better if modified to a new location or shape?

d. How would you modify the raingarden- change size, location, orientation- to make it easier, cheaper, more effective, or a better fit for the location, budget and homeowner preference?

5. Effective Plant Selection - Plant selection for different types of Rainscaping Projects will be discussed as well as the requirements of different species. Class participants will edit the list they bring to class and add to that list throughout the session.

a. This is the piece that most homeowners are most worried about, and it is very important to discuss thoroughly. Can any plant be used in a raingarden? If the client really wants to use a Blueberry bush, what are the considerations to location within a raingarden? And what do you want to consider before designing one in?

b. What considerations will you need to take into account for the plants on a site? Will sight lines be an issue? Do you need to block a view or provide a view?

c. What types of plants would you use to provide a living fence between neighbors?

d. How about a tree or two? What are the issues in planting a tree and can you plant it in the bottom of the garden?

e. Are there plants that you should never consider in a raingarden? Or only consider for specialty locations?

f. Would you consider planting a raingarden under an existing large oak tree and if so, how would you design the garden?

**Course requirements:**

* Attendance and Participation (Required, unless previously cleared with Program Manager)
* Expectations for preparation will be for each participant to 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.
* Assessments
  + Participants will write a list of key steps for the planning of a raingarden and a rainbarrel, and what tools and equipment are needed.
  + Participants will create their own plant list that is edited from the list they bring to the class.