

New Release  
May 29, 2008

For Immediate Release

The Minnesota Environmental Partnership's North Shore Watershed Watch program will be building a rain garden on June 4, 5 and 6<sup>th</sup> and will host a public open house and planting on Saturday June 7<sup>th</sup>. The rain garden will be located at the Anderson House (the location of the Superior Hiking Trail Association), at 731 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Two Harbors. The purpose of the project is to provide a visible model that will provide citizens and decision-makers with landscaping practices that minimize stormwater runoff.

On Saturday, June 7<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 AM to Noon the public is invited to help plant the garden and get information on how to construct a rain garden on their property. The first twenty people to help plant the garden will receive a free copy of *The Blue Thumb Guide to Raingardens: Design and Installation for Homeowners in the Upper Midwest*, by Rusty Schmidt, Dan Shaw, and David Dods.

Stormwater is rain and snow runoff from houses and roadways that picks up sediment and pollutants and carries them to streams and Lake Superior. Rain gardens provide a simple and functional way to capture stormwater from a house or roadway, and then allow that stormwater to percolate into the ground. The rain garden's plants help catch and hold sediment and break down the pollutants, while helping to protect our waterways. Pervious pavers allow water to soak into the ground instead of becoming runoff. These techniques will be part of the demonstration project being build at the Anderson House in Two Harbors.

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