



## 1548 Hennesy Vista, White Bear Township



Installation year: 2019

Project size: 1,225 sq ft

Drainage area into project: 2,670 sq ft

Runoff generated and collected by project in a 1" rain event: 1,631 gallons

Capacity water volume of project: 1,832.73 gallons

Annual stormwater volume reduction: 45,261 gallons/yr (accounting for average rainfall)

Total phosphorus (TP) reduction: .51lbs/yr

Total suspended solids (TSS) reduction: 20.6 lbs/yr

### **Permeable Driveway Chat with Chris Ward:**

**What motives did you have as the project was designed and built?**

I needed a new driveway but wanted to be more environmentally sustainable.

**What do you enjoy most about the raingarden/native planting?**

It has great rainwater drainage - solved a problem with runoff from the home.

**How has it changed your interaction with your yard?**

Love the look of our front yard/driveway.

**Is it working as you intended it to? What's the most challenging part of the raingarden/native planting?**

Working well as expected.

**Contact:**

[cjw.orders@gmail.com](mailto:cjw.orders@gmail.com)



## 1323 Hedman Way, White Bear Lake



### Project Specs

#### Shoreline Restoration:

Size: 1,980 ft<sup>2</sup>

Tools used: Staked biologs, boulders, coconut erosion control fabric, ecoturf biodegradable anchoring pins, hardwood mulch, Rodeo® herbicide for removing invasive near water.

Shoreline plants: Blue flag iris, Joe-pye weed, American high bush cranberry, red osier dogwood, sensitive fern, Sprengel's sedge, Canada anemone, Canada blue joint, beebalm, butterfly weed, wildrye, wild geranium, columbine, hoary vervain, purple coneflower, blazing star, swamp milkweed, little blue stem, Indian grass, maple, birch, mountain ash

#### Upland Native Planting:

Size: 1,000 ft<sup>2</sup>

Tools used: Coconut erosion control fabric, hardwood mulch, boulders

Upland plants: Pale purple coneflower, purple coneflower, butterfly milkweed, white prairie clover, hoary vervain, black-eyed Susan, little bluestem, bottlebrush, prairie dropseed grass

# **Shoreline Chat with Conrad Nguyen and Stacey Brown:**

**What do you enjoy most about your cost-share projects, the shoreline restoration and the native plantings?**

We really enjoy the whole process of creating something beautiful and impactful. We have many pollinators visiting regularly, from bees to butterflies to hummingbirds. It's much more than it used to be. Part of the shoreline includes no-mow fescue near the dock walkway, which is great to not mow and only weed a little here and there.

We look forward to hosting friends and family, sharing insight and seeing others get inspired. Our neighbors are starting to plan a similar restoration now, too.

**How have they changed your interaction with your yard? With the lake?**

Before moving here, we didn't know much about shoreline living other than scenic enjoyment. We had a big erosion problem from the house all the way down the yard to the lake. The water still runs through the same route, but goes much slower. It also doesn't pool or wash out the gully because now there's a rock staircase there.

As we settled in, we saw and fell in love with all the wildlife here, from loons and wood duck babies to a perching eagle in our tree. We really wanted to nurture them. We now have 5 wood duck houses, and each spring get to see the life cycle from laying eggs to mama duck using the shore for shelter.

At one point muskrats would tear up the shoreline, but part of the restoration included rocks on their active spot on the bank. More rocks were buried under the planting to add stabilization and prevent the muskrat burrows.

**What's the most challenging part of the shoreline? With the native planting?**

Patience. It takes time for the plants to mature, and you have to let go of the expectation for instant gratification. We also started with a desire to control it, but with wildlife and weather influencing the seed dispersal it's just too hard to do. We installed the rock path and staircase to serve as structure and erosion control, and it gives us the access we hoped for, too.

While we hired a contractor for the first cost-share, we learned from the example and did it ourselves for the rest of them. Removing the buckthorn, reed canary grass, gout weed, and Japanese knotweed was challenging but worthwhile. When we were planting there was a bee's nest on the ground that we tried to work around. Just about everyone got a sting including our dog Moka... but we persevered and it's pretty in the end! From all of the experience we now feel really comfortable getting suited up and doing a work session in the yard.

**What has surprised you as you've maintained the shoreline and watched it grow?**

Plants have a mind of their own. It wasn't very attractive for a couple of years, and some of the plants shifted around until they found their happy place. We've learned to allow it to do what it wants to do, and it seems to work out better that way. It's kind of cute to see the character of it all. It even becomes addicting once you get going... even if some of the things you plant don't take, there's still a feeling of satisfaction for what does. When natives fill in it increases the joy. We look forward to when we can share plants with others who are excited about native plants and wildlife.

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### What advice do you have for someone curious about shoreline restoration or just starting out?

In your plans, draw up three separate drawings. One for spring, summer, and fall. When we first started we picked plants just by the look of them, without considering the bloom time or their height. After three years of plant selection, we now have it pretty much figured out. We found that selecting larger potted plants limits die off and is more effective in the end. With small plugs the geese and bunnies would do more damage, and even the dog liked eating the long grasses. The geese and bunnies really enjoyed the blazing star and Joe-pye weed.

There was lots of sweat and work upfront, but we're now reaching our low-maintenance reward. Use the resources available for research as well. We learned a lot from the contractor we hired for the first project, and the restoration on the north shore of Birch Lake, which was on city property. We got connected with folks at the U of M to understand the materials that we needed and obtained helpful links, got plant lists from VLAMWO, and asked around at places like Prairie Restorations Inc. and Gertens.

We moved to White Bear Lake about 5 years ago and soon after we stopped by a VLAWMO booth at a public event. It was there we got our first rain barrel and info on the watershed and native plants. Our plants are thriving today and have been shared with others for their gardens. We really want to thank VLAWMO for educating us that day and starting a passion within us!



**Contact:** [conrad\\_nguyen@rocketmail.com](mailto:conrad_nguyen@rocketmail.com)



## **428 Bruns Court, Vadnais Heights:**



NOTE: There is a beehive in the back right of the property under the pine trees.

**Installation year:** 2016, 2017 & 2020

**Project size:** ½ acre

**Raingarden basin sizes:** 2 basins, 300 sq ft

**Annual storm water volume reduction:** 28,446 gallons/year

**Total phosphorus (TP) reduction:** .071 lbs/year

**Total suspended solids (TSS) reduction:** 12.9 lbs/year

**Native plants:** We have just about all that are available!



## Tour Chat with Gina Schmidt:

**What motives did you have as the project was designed and built?**

Increase pollinator habitat and reduce rainwater runoff.

**What do you enjoy most about the raingarden/native planting?**

Observing the diversity of wildlife our gardens attract. Plant it and they will come!

**How has it changed your interaction with your yard?**

I'd rather tend to our gardens and notice their nuanced behavior throughout the seasons than mow grass.

**Is it working as you intended it to? What's the most challenging part of the raingarden/native planting?**

Our native gardens have exceeded our expectations and we have just kept on going, adding our third grant-funded garden along the back-property line.

**What has surprised you as you've maintained the garden and watched it grow**

The difference between how native plants support wildlife and garden center cultivars don't.

**What would you do differently if you created another garden/native planting?**

I wouldn't change a thing. It has evolved as it did and has been a great experience. Our next projects include: converting the front grass strip into a (even more) bee-friendly lawn, removing grass and adding native plantings under dogwoods in front side yard, and adding more natives to the naturalized pond area.

**See the VLAWMO Neighborhood Spotlight for an extended interview on this project:**

<http://www.vlawmo.org/news/blog/neighborhood-spotlight-schmidt-family/>

**Contact:**

ggschmidt@me.com





## 3694 Oak Creek Drive, Vadnais Heights



### Raingarden Specs:

Installation: 2011

Project size: 385 ft<sup>2</sup>

Drainage area into project: 876 ft<sup>2</sup>

Basin volume capacity: 585 ft<sup>3</sup>

Stormwater volume reduction: 14,826 gallons/year

Total phosphorus (TP) reduction: .04 lbs/year

Total suspended solids (TSS) reduction: 7 lbs/year

This raingarden crosses a property line as a shared collaboration between neighbors (pictured left). Two other raingardens were installed in 2015 and 2016 at different ends of the home (pictured right).

**Native plants:** All raingardens

Cup plant, St. John's wort, tamarack, butterfly milkweed, black-eyed Susans, Joe-Pye weed, prairie onion, purple coneflower, prairie smoke, blue flag iris, cardinal flower, monarda, New Jersey Tea, Solomon's Seal, swamp milkweed, pink turtlehead, bottle gentian, black-eyed Susan, blazing star, Great Blue lobelia, Jacob's ladder

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### Raingarden Reflections with Bev Hall:

We actually have 3 gardens that VLAWMO assisted us with financing. The first was installed as a joint project with our neighbors, Jan and Walker Angell, in the fall of 2011. All of our soil is clay so in this particular corner of the yard the soil seemed to never dry out. I had heard about raingardens and proposed to the Angells that we combine these areas of our yards into one raingarden. They suggested using Dan Peterson from Habadapt to design and install the garden. We worked with Dan

closely to decide what plants we preferred. Jan and I shared a preference for flowering plants over grasses, although there are still grasses in the garden to provide structure.

Dan and his crew removed the clay soil and installed composted soil. It functioned as it was intended to, with standing water from rain eventually making its way to the plant roots and water table below within 24-48 hours.

We originally planted three tamarack trees in this raingarden. We struggled with deer rubbing against the bases but now all of them seem to have survived that. We also weren't sure whether or not one of the tamaracks would survive a chemical called Imprellis, which was sprayed on the Angell lawn not long after the garden was installed. Fortunately, the tree appears to be thriving now. We have shrubs like winterberry, June Berry, summersweet, dogwood, hydrangea. We also have dutch iris, blue flag iris, swamp marigold, monarda, bottle gentian, purple coneflower, beard tongue, black-eyed susans, cup plants, cardinal flowers, joe pye weed, prairie smoke, swamp milkweed, butterfly weed and various sedges.

The second raingarden and a pollinator garden were installed in the spring of 2016. We asked Dan from Habadapt to design and install these as well. The gardens were installed on both sides of our driveway, the pollinator garden on the right and the raingarden on the left. Both gardens were installed to replace shrub roses that were planted 1996. Those roses would initially look great but would then get black spot or would be infested with Japanese beetles.

We chose a raingarden for the left side of the driveway because we have a downspout from the garage roof that empties there. We also have a sump pump that we routed into this garden. While the yard that runs next to this raingarden can still get wet, it doesn't seem to take as long as it used to to dry out.

The first year this garden was installed we had a heavy downpour. This created a gully in the soil that wasn't intended. What I did to help mitigate that was I purchased more river rock and created a little dry creek in that gully, which does look natural. The rock keeps the soil from wearing down or eroding.

We have a curly willow shrub, winter berries (which the cedar waxwings love to eat in the fall when the berries ripen), blue flag iris, cardinal flower, monarda, New Jersey Tea, Solomon's Seal, swamp milkweed, pink turtlehead, bottle gentian, dwarf iris, black-eyed Susan, liatris, Great Blue lobelia, rhubarb, Jacob's ladder, Joe Pye weed, purple cornflower, some sedges, cranberries and wild strawberries for ground cover.

The third garden, the pollinator garden, was planted primarily to attract bees and butterflies. I would say we were successful in this, as we have had visits from monarchs as well as other butterflies. We do also get honey bees and bumble bees. One of our more unusual visitors last year was a katydid.

This garden features a cup plant, St. John's wort, lavender, butterfly weed, black-eyed Susans, Joe-Pye weed, prairie onion, purple coneflower, prairie smoke, and a couple sedges. We also added a bird bath top as a water feature for butterflies and birds. We have seen some frogs and toads enjoying it, too.



One of the initial challenges of the 1<sup>st</sup> raingarden was the mulch would migrate to the overflow area of raingarden and have to be redistributed after heavy rains. One of the ways I overcame that was to purchase river rock at a local landscape company to help keep the mulch in place.

Now that the first raingarden has matured, the biggest challenge with it is in the spring to clean it of the dead debris and leaves. Once that is done, it pretty much doesn't require much attention, although I do periodically have to trim the grass back from the borders to keep it attractive.

The main concern with the third raingarden is keeping the lobelia under control, as well as the wild strawberries.

We tried Japanese grass in both raingardens but I gave up when the rabbits decided they enjoyed eating them more than I enjoyed looking at them. To help reduce predation by deer and rabbits, we installed a motion activated sprinkler which will activate when it detects motion. This device has been successful in keeping the deer and rabbits away but can only be used when the temperature is consistently above freezing. I use this primarily for the second rain garden, as well as my vegetable garden when I don't want the deer to enjoy the fruits of my labors.

Over the years we have made a couple changes to the original plans. A few years ago we incorporated the ash trees in our front lawn into the first raingarden, when they were originally separate from it. We also had some limestone pavers added to the second raingarden to create a path for walking along the garage so the soil wouldn't become compacted elsewhere by my husband or I walking through the garden.

The most gratifying part of these gardens has been watching the birds and insects they have attracted. I would say the effort to install and maintain these gardens has been well worth it.

Beverly Hall

Chuck Neuman

**Contact:** [bjh173rd@aol.com](mailto:bjh173rd@aol.com)



## 611 Westfield Lane, Vadnais Heights



### **Raingarden Specifics:**

Installation: 2018

Project size: 1,080 ft<sup>2</sup>

Drainage area into project: 3,824 ft<sup>2</sup>

Volume of water collected and infiltrated in a 1" rain event: 2,033 gallons

Basin depths and overflow design: 18" and 24" basins

Annual stormwater volume reduction: 21,343 gallons/yr

Total phosphorus (TP) reduction: .053 lbs/yr – 18% of property drainage

Total suspended solids (TSS) reduction: 9.7 lbs/yr – 18% of property drainage

**Native plants:** Wild Columbine, Blue Flag Iris, Prairie Blazing Star, Pussy Toes, Prairie Smoke, Gray-Headed Coneflower, Cardinal Flower, Great Blue Lobelia, Smooth Penstemon, Ohio Spiderwort, Nodding Pink Onion, New England Aster, Smooth Aster, Culver's Root, Coral Bells, Thimble Flower Anemone Cylindrica, Wild Petunia Ruellia, Joe Pye Weed, Swamp Milkweed, Bottle Gentian, White Snowberry, Glossy Black Chokeberry, False Blue Indigo, Indian Grass, Prairie Dropseed Grass, Little Bluestem Grass, Big Bluestem Grass, Junegrass, Pennsylvania Oak Sedge, Prairie Cord Grass

**Access:** Please watch out for the fishing line fence, it is hard to see. You are welcome to go to the driveway and walk around the fence and through the yard or duck under it.

## **Tour Chat with Janelle Green:**

### **What motives did you have as the project was designed and built?**

When we bought this house in 2017, our yard was just a boring, flat piece of land. There were also incredibly long downspout extenders and a sump pump discharge sticking far out into the grass. They were unattractive and a pain to work around, and we immediately knew that we wanted to remove those eyesores. We've also always been strong advocates of protecting the environment and our natural spaces, so by planting our beautiful raingardens, we could reduce our runoff while enhancing our yard – win, win!

### **What do you enjoy most about the raingarden/native planting?**

We enjoy how much interest it adds to our yard and the wildlife that it attracts. In the spring, we get ducks that come swim around in the basins after heavy rain, and frogs that we can hear at night. As flowers start to bloom, we get lots of visits from the three Bs: butterflies, bees, and birds – including hummingbirds!

### **How has it changed your interaction with your yard?**

We spend a lot more time in the side yard than we did when it was just vacant space. It prompts a lot of discussion with neighbors walking by, which is fun. The project has also prompted us to appreciate and think more about native plants since it is 100% native. We've since added native plants elsewhere in the yard as well.

### **Is it working as you intended it to? What's the most challenging part of the raingarden/native planting?**

It is absolutely working as we intended it to! We had a little trouble getting some of the plants established at first because of slow drainage in the clay soil we have, but that really improved as everything started to fill in. The most challenging part has been learning to identify the plants that are supposed to be there and those that are not. The additional weeding has required us to spend more time doing yardwork, but the plants were selected so they would fill in more over time, so the time commitment is already decreasing. When the good plants are flourishing, there's less space for the bad ones.

### **What has surprised you as you've maintained the garden and watched it grow?**

How much of a difference a year can make. It seems like the plants all take a little time to get established, and then they suddenly take off. It's a lot of fun to see.

### **What would you do differently if you created another garden/native planting?**

We make sure to dig a lot of drainage holes. We had to dig additional ones last spring because we had challenges with plants drowning the previous fall. We would also make sure to protect against the deer right away. They really enjoy eating our plants if given the opportunity. If anyone is having problems with that themselves, we strongly recommend a fishing line fence. Ours is doing wonders this year! They have not been anywhere near the gardens since we put it up.

### **Contact:**

[janelle.t.green@gmail.com](mailto:janelle.t.green@gmail.com)





## 2 Thrush Lane, North Oaks



**Installation:** Year 2015 & 2016 (divided into 2 phases due to cost considerations) The project is located along Thrush Lane, mostly on the right side of the driveway looking toward the house from the street. There is also a small area to the left of the driveway next to the mailbox.

**Project size:** 4,500 ft<sup>2</sup>

**Access:** Participants can park on Thrush Lane and walk up and down the length of our driveway. Point of interest: The adjacent lawn is slowly being converted to a bee lawn. Remaining creeping Charlie areas will be raked up and planted this fall.

### Plant List:

**Woodland seed mix containing:** Mayapple, Phlox, Wild ginger, Rue anemone, Large-flowered white trillium, Wild geranium, Early meadow rue, Wood anemone, Bloodroot, Jack-in-the-pulpit, Solomon's seal, False Solomon's seal, Twisted stalk, Bellwort, Bluebell, Spiderwort (existed before project)Poke milkweed (volunteer), White snake root (volunteer)

**Trees and shrubs:** Ironwood (tall trees along the road)Pagoda dogwood, Flowering crabapple (planted prior to project), Gro-low sumac (this leafs out very late in the spring)Honeysuckle (deer like to eat this)Red oaks, white oak, American elm (existed before project)Black walnut (volunteer)

**Area on both sides of the driveway where it meets street:** Pennsylvania sedge, Lady fern, Running tapestry tiarella (this has very nice blooms in May)Wild ginger, Jack-in-the-pulpit (volunteer)

**Problem species:** Buckthorn, Garlic mustard, Stinging nettle, Virginia creeper, Volunteer trees of various sorts, Creeping Charlie, Plantain, Reed canary grass, Yellow archangel and probably other unidentified invasives!

## Native Plant chat with Kate Winsor:

**What motives did you have as the project was designed and built?** We wanted to restore an overgrown area (filled with buckthorn and other invasives) on our lot to a naturalized woodland. The project needed to fit with the natural aesthetic of the rest of our property and not look too intentional. Another motive: to benefit wildlife and reduce water runoff. A landscaping company did all the preparation and installation work.

**What do you enjoy most about the raingarden/native planting?** We enjoy watching the area change throughout the seasons, especially the flowering plants. We love to look for new flowers while walking down the driveway (particularly in the spring).

**How has it changed your interaction with your yard?** The project makes us pay attention to what's in bloom. It makes us less anxious about the bedraggled appearance of our yard.

**Is it working as you intended it to? What's the most challenging part of the raingarden/ native planting?** It is working as intended. The biggest challenge is making sure invasive species are weeded out.

**What has surprised you as you've maintained the garden and watched it grow?** We are surprised at how well it has filled in over the years. When it was originally installed, wood chips were applied to the entire landscaped area. We no longer need the wood chips to fill in the gaps between plants. We really like the way the ironwood trees have grown. We've heard that ironwood trees in Europe are often "trained" to fill in like a hedgerow.

**What would you do differently if you created another garden/native planting?** We would make sure that the plants that are selected are truly deer resistant. We find that honeysuckle is especially attractive to deer, although this year the deer numbers are low and the honeysuckle is not browsed as much.

**Contact:** [katewinsor@comcast.net](mailto:katewinsor@comcast.net)







# 500 Kohler Road, Vadnais Heights



## Raingarden Specifics

**Installation:** 2015

**Project size:** 544 ft<sup>2</sup>

**Drainage area into project:** 925.50 ft<sup>2</sup>

**Volume of water generated in project drainage area:** 576 gal per 1 inch of rainfall.

Divided by 40 = ~14.4 bathtubs

**Basin depths and overflow design:** The basin is 154 ft<sup>2</sup> and has a varied depth of 3" to 6". Based on infiltration, the rain garden can easily handle 1,152 gallons at once. Infiltration test was a 15" hole emptied in one hour.

**Annual stormwater volume reduction:** 110,464 gallons/year ~2,762 bathtubs/year

**Total phosphorus (TP) reduction:** .057 lbs/year

**Total suspended solids (TSS) reduction:** 10.4 lbs/year

### Native plant list:

Butterfly Milkweed, Side Oats Gramma Grass, Wild Petunia, Big Blue Stem, Pale Purple Coneflower, Prairie Blazing Star, Culvers, Root, Smooth Penstemon, Joe Pye Weed, Fragrant Hyssop, Ohio Spiderwort, Sky Blue Aster, New England Aster, White Upland Aster, Wild Bergamot, Boneset, Iron Weed, Prairie Smoke, Double headed coneflower, Cardinal Flower, Blue Lobelia, Wild Columbine, One unidentified Sedge. And a Partridge in a pear tree!



# Tour Chat with Angela Marlette:

## What motives did you have as the project was designed and built?

Our main goal was to mitigate the water that would collect near the foundation of the house and eventually enter the basement. We knew a sizable swale would be needed and we're excited that both water-loving and prairie natives could then be used.

## What do you enjoy most about the raingarden/native planting?

Watching the garden come back to life each spring, finding new homes for all the babies, harvesting seeds to give away, listening to the bees visiting the flowers, watching each month bring a different garden bloom, and knowing we are allowing more water to enter back into the aquifer rather than run straight to Vadnais Lake.

## How has it changed your interaction with your yard?

There is not a day that goes by, spring thru fall, in which we fail to enjoy the changes happening in the rain garden. After 6 years, we gauge time by what the garden is doing. We know when to expect monarch butterflies to visit, first to lay eggs and later to feast on Prairie Blazing Star for their journey to Mexico!

Each year we seem to find new places to grow native plants in our little yard! What would have been struggling lawn or rock fill are now home to native plantings and mini rain gardens.

## Is it working as you intended it to? What is the most challenging part of the raingarden/native planting?

Overall, the water entering the basement has been mitigated and we have a lovely garden that comes back each year. But a challenge is making the tough decision of what to do with seedlings or plants that need thinning. Since we found out that we can get free mulch at Ramsey County Yard Waste sites, that is no longer a challenge.

## What has surprised you as you've maintained the garden and watched it grow?

How much I enjoy puttering in the garden and learning more about propagating native species. Even more than my vegetable garden.

## What would you do differently if you created another garden/native planting?

Allowed a little more room between plantings. (Things will grow in over time) and made it bigger!

**Contact:** [Angelamarlette@aol.com](mailto:Angelamarlette@aol.com)





## 470 Vadnais Lake Drive, Vadnais Heights



Feel free to walk up the driveway to the garden near the front sidewalk.

### **Raingarden Specifics:**

Installation: 2019

Project size: 390 ft<sup>2</sup>

Drainage area into project: 1,085 ft<sup>2</sup>

Volume of water generated in project drainage area in a 1" rain event: 525 gallons

Basin depths and overflow design: 6 (inches) basin depth.

Annual stormwater volume reduction: 1,904 gallons/yr

Total phosphorus (TP) reduction: .036 lbs/yr

Total suspended solids (TSS) reduction: 6.5 lbs/yr

Native plants: Coneflowers, Black Eyed Susan, Aster, Yarrow, Bee Balm, Butterfly Weed, Coreopsis, Showy Goldenrod, Wild Columbine, Marsh Blazingstar, June grass, Palm Sedge

**Side yard features:** Alternative landscaping to slow runoff and prevent erosion

**North side:** Re-graded swale and dry creek – 1,408 ft<sup>2</sup>

**South side:** Re-graded drainage area and native sedge ground cover – 258 ft<sup>2</sup>

Rock and dry creeks are recommended for areas with fast, high-velocity water. Native groundcovers are suitable for slower-moving runoff and flat areas. With deeper roots than turf grass, they specialize in retaining moisture, improving soil health, and connecting surface water to shallow groundwater. They also offer an alternative lawn care routine that often results in reduced lawn care time and maintenance.





**Drain collection box**



**Pop up drain**

## **Tour Chat with Ceci and Ed:**

### **What motives did you have as the project was designed and built?**

We had a downspout that came off our front roof that deposited 145 gallons of water in an one inch rainfall into the street and storm drains running to the nearby wetlands and lake.

### **What do you enjoy most about the raingarden/native planting?**

We love that we found a way to better handle a large amount of runoff and use it for better purposed such as our lawn and flowers. We love the benefits of having native flowers such as more bees and butterflies and just knowing that it is healthier for the garden and environment.

### **How has it changed your interaction with your yard?**

We have many more pollinators and we enjoy the look of the native plants. We love learning about the different plants and exploring them for perspective new additions to the garden.

### **Is it working as you intended it to? What's the most challenging part of the raingarden/native planting?**

The drain, garden and pop-up work very well. We have had some very heavy rains, many more than one inch accumulations and the drainage works perfectly. The biggest challenge is just maintaining the growth of the garden so the plants have room to grow and stay healthy.

### **What has surprised you as you've maintained the project?**

We have a great deal of shade on our property and it has been wonderful to learn about native shade plants. As a result of our experience we are now planning to remove more grass and put in a shade garden which will use less water than the grass and provide a continuous path for pollinators.

We are very enthusiastic about native plants and love talking with people about them and the benefits of planting them.

### **What would you do differently if you created another garden/native planting?**

We might consider enlarging the garden. A larger garden would be a better use of the space for us, because unlike turf it doesn't use water, and adds to the environment while attracting pollinators.

**Contact: [Cecishapland@gmail.com](mailto:Cecishapland@gmail.com)**