



COUNTY OF KENDALL, ILLINOIS
Health & Environment Committee
County Office Building
County Board Room 210

Monday, June 18, 2018 – 8:30a.m.
MEETING AGENDA

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Roll Call:** Judy Gilmour (Chair), Elizabeth Flowers (Vice Chair), Tony Giles, Matthew Prochaska, John Purcell
- 3. Approval of Agenda**
- 4. Approval of Minutes from May 21, 2018**
- 5. Status Reports**
 - Board of Health
 - Health Department
 - Soil & Water
 - Water Related Groups
 - Other Reports
- 6. Old Business**
- 7. New Business**
- 8. Chairman's Report**
- 9. Public Comment**
- 10. Questions from the Media**
- 11. Action Items for the County Board**
- 12. Executive Session**
- 13. Adjournment**

COUNTY OF KENDALL, ILLINOIS
Health & Environment Committee
Monday, May 21, 2018
Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Judy Gilmour at 3:01p.m. Member Gilmour appointed County Board Member Audra Hendrix temporarily to the committee to establish a quorum to conduct business.

ROLL CALL

Committee Members Present: Tony Giles – here, Judy Gilmour – here, Audra Hendrix - here

Members Excused: Matthew Prochaska, John Purcell

Member Absent: Elizabeth Flowers

Others Present: Jenny Wold, KC Soil & Water District, Dr. Amaal Tokars, Kendall County Health Department

APPROVAL OF AGENDA – Member Hendrix made a motion to approve the agenda, second by Member Giles. **With three members present in agreement, the motion carried.**

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES – Member Hendrix made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from April 16, 2018, second by Member Giles. **With three members present voting aye, the motion carried.**

STATUS REPORTS

- **Board of Health** – Dr. Tokars reported that they had a large meeting focusing on the Opioid Crisis, and County Board Chair Scott Gryder was a guest. The Health Board also voiced their concerns to Chairman Gryder over employee health benefit costs, and other Health Department or County issues.

- **Health Department** – Dr. Tokars reported that the Health Department has not voiced concern either verbally or in writing regarding the retention pond behind the Health and Human Services building, but said the County could contact the designer of the retention pond for discussion about the pond. She said that Member Davidson did approach her about the traps.

Dr. Tokars also provided information about Animal Rabies testing for 2018, and explained that rabies among human beings from animal bites is more uncommon now due to increased owner vaccinations of pets.

Dr. Tokars stated that community members are welcome to contact the Health Department for instructions and possible situations where the Illinois Department of Public Health might test a bat for rabies. The Health Department will send deceased bats to the IDPH for testing. Dr. Tokars also highlighted some warning signs about bats such as appearance in daylight, low flying bats without being provoked. Dr. Tokars stated that it is extremely dangerous for a human to have contact with high-risk species (neurologic or extremely aggressive animals: bats, raccoons, skunks, foxes and coyotes).

Dr. Tokars briefed the committee on the annual Health Department Community Action Services Scholarship Program, which awards scholarships each year to low-income (\$18,090 - \$43,170 per year, based on household size), and disadvantaged students of high academic achievement potential since 1983, all students must be enrolling in an accredited institute of higher education in the state of Illinois.

These scholarships provide financial assistance to eligible individuals for education or occupational training. Applicants must be a resident of Kendall or Grundy County, funds must be used for either 2-year or 4-year training, applicants must have demonstrated positive community/school involvement, and funds must be used for books, tuition, fees, etc.

- **Kendall County Soil and Water District** – Jenny Wold reported that the Ag in the Classroom program is finished for this school year.

Ms. Wold also reported that she will be leaving her position with the Soil and Water District to return to a full-time teaching position in Ottawa Illinois. The District is currently accepting applications for the Ag in the Classroom position, and will conduct interviews in June.

OLD BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS - None

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – None

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

ITEMS FOR COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – None

COUNTY BOARD ACTION ITEMS - None

EXECUTIVE SESSION – Not Needed

ADJOURNMENT – Member Hendrix made a motion to adjourn the meeting, second by Member Giles. **With no objections, the meeting was adjourned at 3:34p.m.**

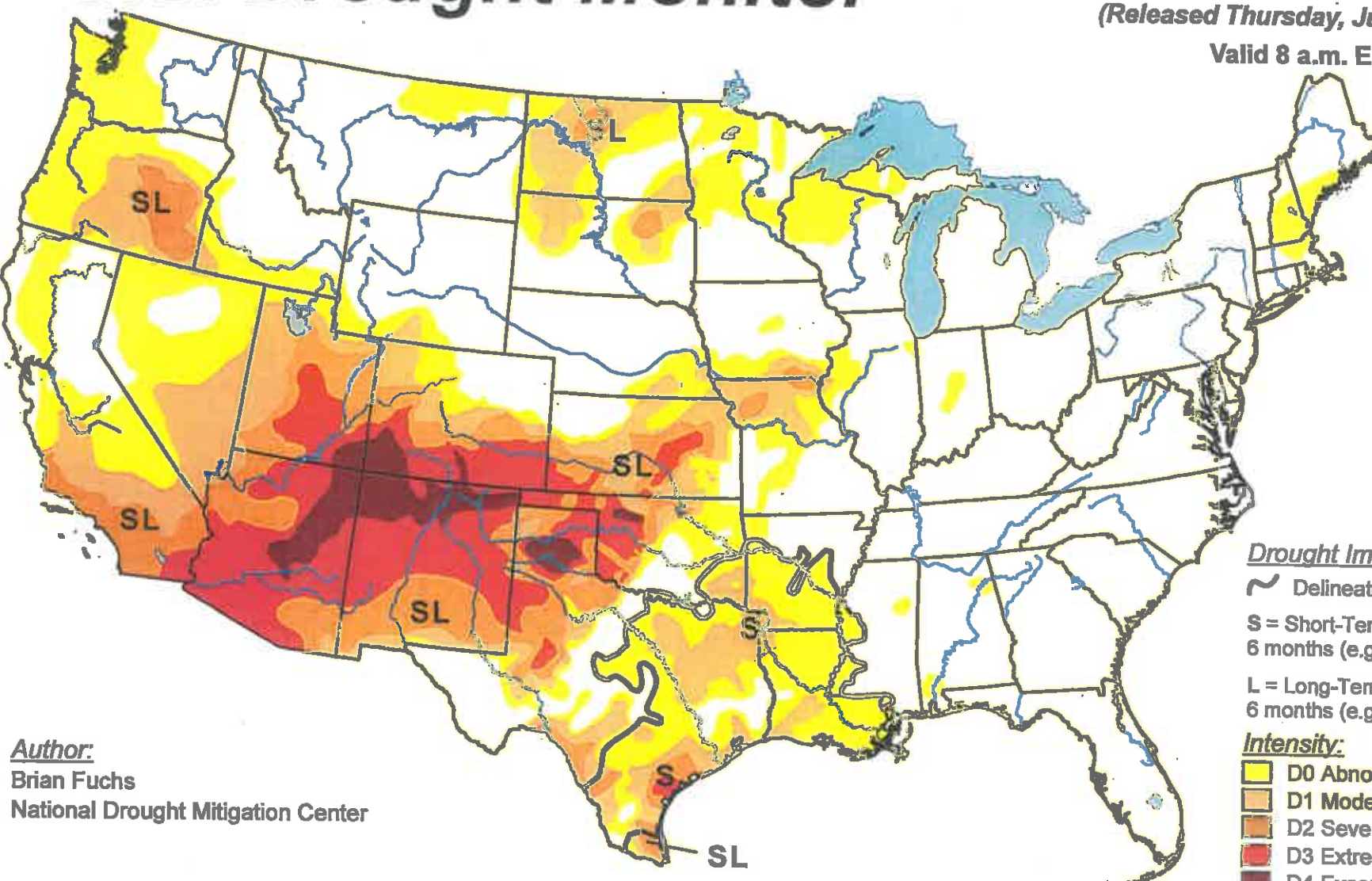
Respectfully Submitted, Valarie McClain, Administrative Assistant and Recording Clerk

U.S. Drought Monitor

June 12, 2018

(Released Thursday, Jun. 14, 2018)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Drought Impact Types:

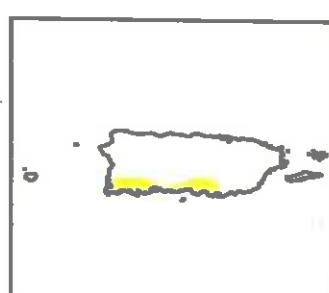
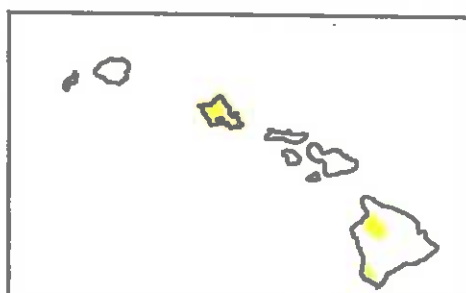
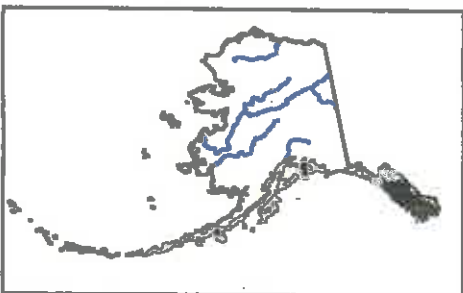
- ~ Delineates dominant impacts
- S = Short-Term, typically less than 6 months (e.g. agriculture, grasslands)
- L = Long-Term, typically greater than 6 months (e.g. hydrology, ecology)

Intensity:

- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

Author:
Brian Fuchs
National Drought Mitigation Center

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.



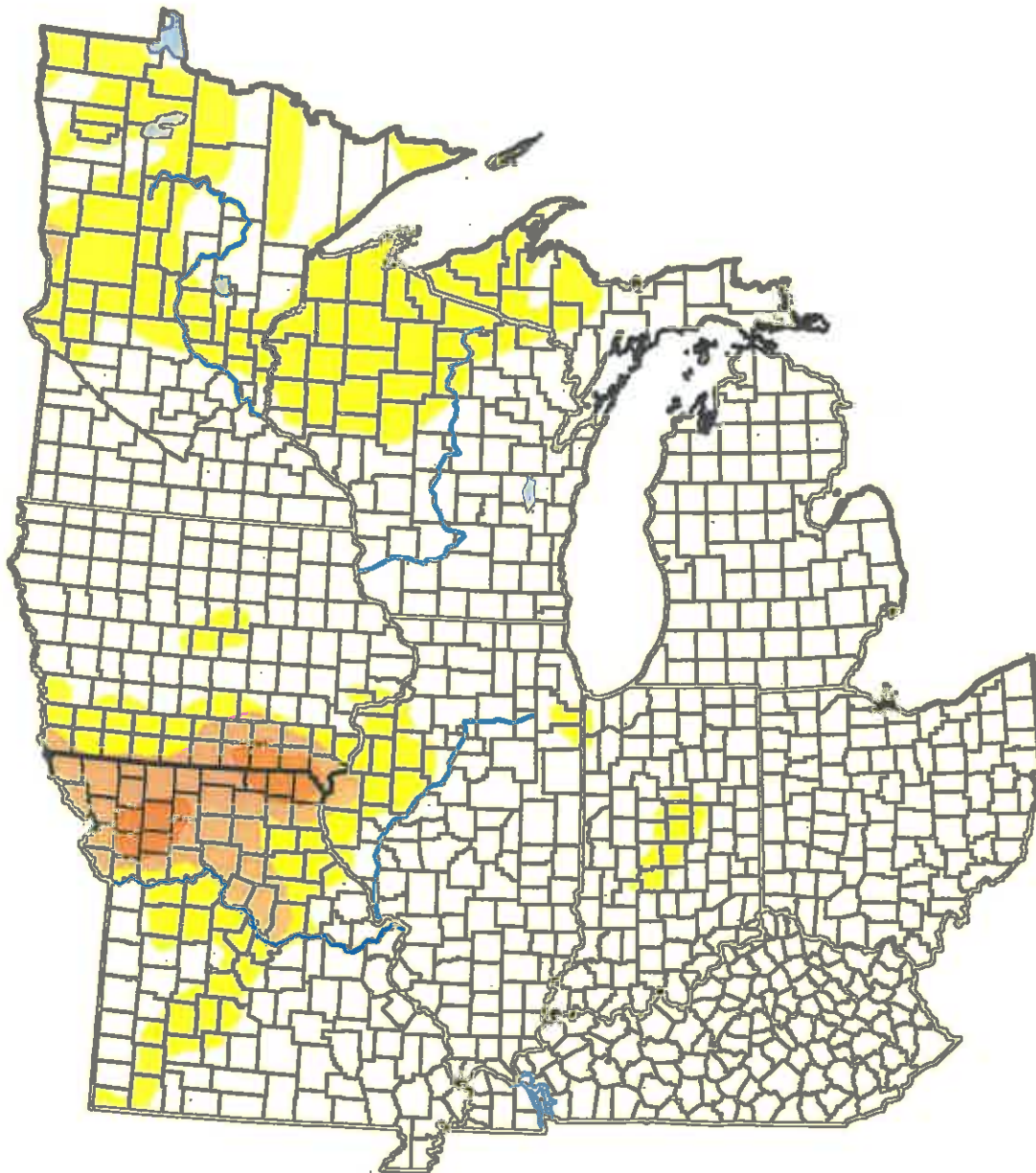
<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>

Midwest

June 12, 2018

(Released Thursday, Jun. 14, 2018)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	75.60	24.40	4.81	1.03	0.00	0.00
Last Week <i>06-05-2018</i>	77.00	23.00	3.78	0.50	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago <i>03-13-2018</i>	81.59	18.41	2.92	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year <i>01-02-2018</i>	69.93	30.07	9.46	3.44	0.18	0.00
Start of Water Year <i>09-28-2017</i>	58.41	41.59	8.86	0.77	0.25	0.00
One Year Ago <i>06-13-2017</i>	74.10	25.90	3.02	0.00	0.00	0.00

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Author:

Brian Fuchs
National Drought Mitigation Center



Rain Gardens and Native Plants at Home

Megan Andrews
Resource Conservationist

 Kendall County Soil & Water
Conservation District

Kendall County SWCD...

- ❖ A governmental body created by state law for the purpose of promoting the **protection** and **conservation** of the county and state's **soil, water** and **related natural resources**.
 - "Independent unit of local government"
 - Formation was in part a response to the dust bowl of the 1930s.
 - 98 SWCDs in Illinois; Kendall County SWCD formed on June 2, 1947.
 - Co-located with USDA – Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) at the USDA Service Center in Yorkville.
- ❖ Provide and assist in delivering programs that **prevent erosion from urban development and of tillable soil** that threatens our agricultural economy and the sustainability of our surface water supplies.

Kendall County SWCD...

- ❖ Provide **resources, technical assistance and education opportunities**.
 - **Partners for Conservation Program** – technical & financial assistance to landowners in the county to address erosion and drainage issues through best management practices (grassed waterways, filter strips, streambank stabilization and well sealing).
 - **Educational Programs & Workshops** to K-12 students, as well as adults, on natural resource and agriculture related topics.
 - **Community assistance** – public, local developers, elected officials, municipal government, county government, and state and federal natural resource agencies.
 - **Resources** – fish/tree, native plant, and rain barrel sales, map resources (floodplain, wetland, aerial, soil), used oil pick-up, natural resource related informational brochures and materials.

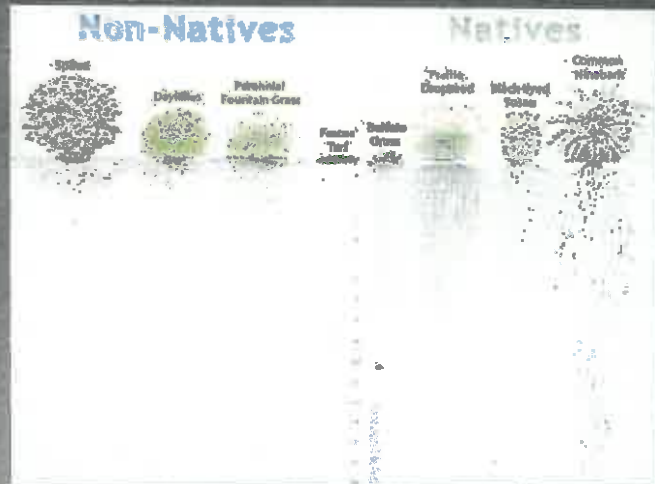
Native Plants

- ❖ "...occur naturally in a particular region, state, ecosystem and habitat without direct or indirect human actions."
Federal Native Plant Committee
 - Represent the natural heritage of the area
 - Well adapted to local conditions
- ❖ Include grasses, flowers, sedges, forbs, and legumes.



Native Plants

- Long, extensive root structure



Native Plants

- **Benefits:**
 - Improve quality of:
 - air
 - water
 - soil
 - Help prevent flooding
 - Enhance biodiversity
 - Food & shelter for wildlife and insects
 - Hardy
 - Low maintenance
 - Cost effective



Native Plants at Home

- **Considerations:**
 - Using native plants does not have to be all or none - you control your landscape.
 - There is no right or wrong.
 - Let your yard work for you.
 - Neighbors
 - Local Ordinances
 - Define what you want – what is your goal(s)?
 - Attract wildlife & insects (birds, bees, butterflies)
 - Recreate a flower bed or convert an underutilized portion of your yard?



Native Plants at Home

- **Getting started...**
 - Many ways to approach your project
 - What are you comfortable with?
 - What do you find helpful?
 - Inventory your yard & develop a plan
 - Existing features: utilities, patios, downspouts, landscaping
 - Site conditions: drainage, soils, sun & shade





Native Plants at Home

Assess Site Conditions:

Water & Drainage

- What & where are the sources of runoff? Where does water travel (how does water move across your yard)? Do you have wet spots?

Soils

What kind of soil do you have?

Each soil has different amounts of sand, silt and clay.

How does the soil feel?

Has the original soil profile been disturbed?

How will it drain water & support vegetation?

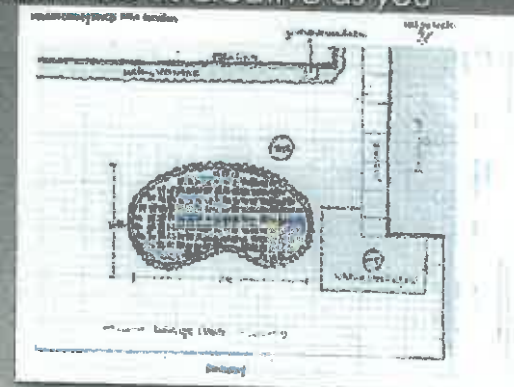
Sun / Shade



Native Plants at Home

Develop a Plan

- Keep in mind your goals, yard and site conditions.
- Sketch out the location - be as creative as you want with your design!
- Begin "painting" your picture with plants.



Native Plants at Home

Plants

- Select plants that fit your yard to ensure success.
 - Plants best suited for your conditions will flourish without additional water and fertilizer once established.
- There is a large variety of plants to fit all conditions, needs and desires.
- Take into consideration...
 - Plant color, bloom time, height, shape, texture
 - Diversity
 - Placement within the planting bed



Native Plants at Home

Plants

- Take into consideration (continued)...
 - Seed or plug? (affect establishment & manual inputs)
 - Use local genotypes - unique genetic makeup adapted to local conditions
 - Plants sources
 - Local nurseries
 - "Nursery Propagated"
 - Use the scientific name
 - Self Collecting
 - When do I plant?
 - Transplants: Spring or Early Fall
 - Seed: late Spring or Early Summer Fall in some instances



Native Plants at Home

Site Preparation

- Smothering
- Herbicide (low toxicity, non-persistent)
- Equipment
 - Sod-cutter
 - Tiller
- Minimize Weedy competition
- Organic Matter?



Begin Planting



Native Plants at Home

Plant establishment & Maintenance

- Weeding
- Water
- Mulch (caution: weeds)
- Mowing or Cutting
 - In place of a controlled burn, mowing removes debris and allows exposed soil to be warmed by the sun which stimulates new growth.
 - Late-Fall or early Spring
 - Timing & Frequency favors different plants.



Rain Gardens

What is rain garden?

A shallow depression, planted with native plants, that absorbs rain water (runoff) from impervious surfaces, mainly from the roof of your home.

Allows water to slowly filter into the ground rather than runoff into a storm sewer.



Photo Courtesy of USDA-NRCS



Rain Gardens

Location

- At least 10 feet away from your foundation.
- Near a downspout (water source)
 - Extend and lay piping on the ground
 - Dig a trench and lay plastic piping
- Topography (garden bed will need to be flat so the greater the slope, the more work necessary to prepare the bed).
- Note the existing drainage pattern in your yard.



Photo Courtesy of Wisconsin DNR



Rain Gardens

Design (size & shape)

Drainage area:

estimate the area from which your garden will get rain (roof area – how many downspouts & yard).

Typical depth 3-7 inches; 100-300 square feet in size.

Rain garden bed must be level so that water spreads out to maximize infiltration.

Considerations:

Longer side of the rain garden should face upslope to maximize the amount of water coming into the rain garden.

typical design – rain garden twice as long as it is wide (maximum width 1.5 feet).



Photo courtesy of W. H. B. B. B.



Rain Gardens

- A rain garden can be any shape or size; work with what you have.



Photo courtesy of W. H. B. B. B.



Photo courtesy of Taylor Creek Restoration Nurseries



Photo courtesy of W. H. B. B. B.



Rain Gardens

- Soils
- Vegetation
 - Keep in mind that a rain garden will go through very wet and dry periods – make sure to select plants accordingly.
- Inventory
- Develop a Plan
- Site Preparation
- Rain garden Establishment & Maintenance
- Cost

If you do all the work yourself, \$3-5 per square foot
If you hire a landscaper, \$10-15 per square foot



Kendall County SWCD Rain Garden



Native Plants

- Native Plants:
 - Benefit our environment
 - Great way to learn about plants (colors, sizes, species), soils and water
 - Let your yard and perspective guide you – paint your own picture.
 - You can do it!



