

Get Outside and Create a Native Garden or Rain Garden This Spring with Plant Dane

Starting a native garden, no matter how small, can be a beautiful focal point to your landscape that is not only fun to plant, but fun to observe through the seasons. Native plants have a lot of hidden benefits too; they provide food and habitat for local wildlife and help rainwater soak into the ground through their deep root systems protecting our lakes, rivers and streams from polluted stormwater runoff. The Plant Dane Native Plant Program provides native plants to schools, non-profit organizations, municipalities and residents in Dane County for a fraction of the normal retail cost. Consider converting some of your turf grass or pavement into a native garden this spring and have a Ripple Effect on our waters!

Choose from more than 40 native plant species including: butterfly, prairie and rain garden kits. Plants are \$2.25 each and all species must be ordered in multiples of four. Donations to purchase native plants for specific community and school projects will also be accepted through Plant Dane. Program details are available at www.ripple-effects.com/plantdane. All orders must be received by March 21st, 2021.

Are you new to the world of native gardening? Consider building a small rain garden to capture runoff from your roof when it rains. Learn how by registering for the Virtual Rain Garden Workshop Series. This workshop series guides participants new to the world of rain gardens through a step by step process to design a rain garden plan that is specific to their property. The series is broken up into three 1.5 hour online classes (Feb. 16th, Mar. 2nd, and Mar. 16th) and will cover information on site selection, sizing, site preparation, plant selection, installation and maintenance. Experts will be available to help participants through the process and answer questions. Participants will also have access to a private group web site to share ideas, plans and get feedback between classes. The cost is only \$10. For more information or to register visit www.ripple-effects.com/plantdane.