



Native sedge, Bottlebrush sedge  
(*Carex comosa*)



Swamp milkweed  
(*Asclepias incarnate*)

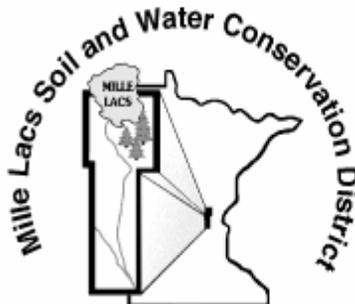
**Native plants, adapted  
to the environment,  
work best.**



Native grass, Big bluestem  
(*Andropogon gerardii*)

The Milaca Library Rain Garden is a joint venture between The Friends of the Library, The City of Milaca and the Mille Lacs Soil and Water Conservation District who provided a Local Water Management Challenge Grant and technical assistance. For more information on rain gardens contact Lynn Carter at the Mille Lacs SWCD at 320-983-2160.

Thank you to all the wonderful volunteers that helped construct and plant the Milaca Library Rain Garden



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The Mille Lacs Soil and Water Conservation District is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

# City of Milaca Library Rain Garden



A completed rain garden.  
Photo courtesy of the Faribault SWCD

Traditionally, rain water picks up pollutants as it runs over lawns and hard surfaces, eventually running down storm drains where it discharges directly into rivers and lakes.

Our rain garden will protect the Rum River by removing pollutants and capturing the water and filtering the pollution through soil and native plants.



# What is a rain garden and how does it work?

A Rain Garden traps rain water and allows it to soak into the ground rather than run into the storm sewer and then into our rivers and lakes. When rain water runs over lawns and hard sur-



Polluted runoff can harm fish and wildlife in the Rum River

faces, it picks up pollutants like fertilizers, herbicides, oils salts and sedi-

ments. These pollutants are then deposited into the nearest storm drain. In Milaca, the storm drains discharge directly into the Rum River. Rain garden vegetation slows down the runoff, allowing the pollutants to be absorbed and filtered by the plant material and soil.

## Native Plants

Native plants are preferred for rain garden plantings because they are best adapted to our local climate. They do not need fertilizing or watering and their long roots help absorb and filter polluted run off and control erosion. Many native plants are able to tolerate both wet and dry soils, conditions that exist in a rain garden. Native plants are also beautiful and attract birds and butterflies.



## Design

The Milaca Library Rain Garden takes advantage of an existing ditch that has been altered to create basins and a swale to hold the rainwater until it can be absorbed by the garden. The basins and swale are planted with species that do well in a moist environment and the side slopes are planted with species that tolerate dryer conditions. The plants on the slopes help to control soil erosion.

## Planting List

**These are just some of the plants that are in the Milaca Rain Garden.**

### Basins

Sweet Flag (*Acorus Calamus*)  
Fox Sedge (*Carex vulpinoidea*)  
Blue Flag (*Iris versicolor*)  
Great Blue Lobelia (*Lobelia siphilitica*)  
Swamp Milkweed (*Asclepias incarnate*)  
Bee Balm (*Monarda fistulosa*)  
Blue Vervain (*Verbena Hastata*)  
Joe Pye Weed (*Eupatorium maculatum*)  
Big Bluestem (*Andropogon gerardii*)  
Bottlebrush Sedge (*Carex comosa*)  
Lake sedge (*Carex lacustris*)  
Tall Blazing Star (*Liatris pycnostachya*)

### Slopes

Columbine (*Aquilegia Canadensis*)  
Hyssop (*Agastache foeniculum*)  
Little Bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*)  
Prairie Dropseed (*Sporobolus heterolepis*)  
Purple Coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*)  
Rough Blazing Star (*Liatris aspera*)  
Wild Lupine (*Lupinus perennis*)  
Prairie Phlox (*Phlox pilosa*)  
Black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*)  
Smooth Aster (*Aster laevis*)  
Grey-headed Coneflower (*Ratibida pinnata*)