



NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

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Rain Garden could help Parkville drainage issue

By Nick Dupont

It's all downhill from here.

A presentation to the Parkville Board of Aldermen on Tuesday night suggested "rain gardens" as a solution to de-stressing Parkville's stormwater system. These "miniature wetlands" could reduce drainage and potential flooding, a problem the city knows all too well.

By planting in a shallow depression 10 feet from a building's foundation, a rain garden filled with common plants channel the water underground where it captures, filters, stores, and slowly releases the water, reducing the amount of runoff and eliminating pollutants that could do harm to nearby streams.

Those apprehensive about digging a garden designed to mimic wet conditions have concerns about mosquitoes and clay soil, through which water does not easily pass.

Rain garden plants have deep roots, even in clay soil. Over time, the roots dies off and leave channels underground for water to drain.

Female mosquitoes are attracted to lay their eggs in the garden's temporarily wet environment. 24-48 hours later, the eggs dry up as the water is sucked into the ground, killing off the next generation of bugs.

Rain garden committee coordinator, Carla Dods says the gardens are highly effective and a cheap and easy way to improve the environment.

"I think people will take to this fairly quickly once they see the benefits," Dods said. "It's very popular in Minnesota where they have a lot of water to deal with. I think it will catch on in Kansas City. They can be very beautiful and they adapt to a variety of situations. With a little bit of education and minimal experience a home gardener can actually put one in themselves."

The committee plans to hold workshops for Parkville citizens if funding is approved.

"We feel the mayor and the aldermen are behind us on this," she said. "We've even suggested that they plant a rain garden in front of the new city hall once it's built to set an example for how effective and attractive they can be."