



## NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

From The Parkville Luminary  
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January 6th, 2006

### Rain Garden Committee Forms

By Nancy Jack

“Rain gardens” and a creek watershed matter greeted Parkville aldermen Tuesday at their first meeting of the new year.

A rain garden, Carla Dods told the Board, is a small detention pond that holds rain runoff briefly and provides the opportunity for a beauty spot as well. Nearly any depression, manmade or natural, can serve as a mini-wetland, slowing the runoff which reduces flooding and erosion and puts less pressure on storm sewers, she said.

Kimberlee Foster, project manager for the Brush Creek Mid-Shed Project sponsored by the Platte Land Trust, announced that a dinner meeting for public officials and staff members to discuss best management practices of development, particularly in the Brush Creek watershed that extends from near the KCI airport to the Missouri river, has been rescheduled to Jan. 12 at Nick & Jake's restaurant.

“The Economics of Best Management Practices and Low Impact Development; Applications for the Planning Process” is the theme. The dinner is by invitation only, but also is open to anyone interested. Reservations can be made at 778-0570.

Dods described a “10,000 Rain Garden Initiative” backed by Kansas City mayor Kay Barnes, among other supporters who hope to see that number within the next three years. Parkville Mayor Kathy Dusenbery appointed Dods to head a seven member local rain gardens committee.

“We all live in a watershed,” Dods noted. “Rain water held for just a few days allows water to infiltrate the soil, evaporate, and sustain the plant life in and near it. There is no need to worry about a rain garden being a mosquito hatchery unless your garden is designed to hold water, because mosquitoes need a least a week of standing water to complete their life cycle.”

She distributed copies of a brochure titled “Native Plant Rain Gardens” published jointly by the Missouri Departments of Conservation and Agriculture which provides directions on how to construct and maintain a water garden, plus a photographic display of native plants suitable for water gardens.

Dods also showed slides of water gardens on residential property, swales along roads, methods of water recovery from rooftops, and the use in of rain gardens or mini wetlands on business and commercial properties. She has a master's degree in environmental science water resources, and works in water consulting.

Her Parkville Rain Gardens Committee is still in the formative stage