

TRUFFULA TIMES

A Bluegrass PRIDE Publication

RAIN GARDENS, RAIN BARRELS AND TREE PLANTINGS, OH MY!

On February 16, 2011, Josh Morgan, Danville Assistant Engineer/Stormwater Engineer, began implementing plan-based projects for the 319 Nonpoint Source Pollution Grant awarded to the City of Danville. The grant, which extends through September, 2013, includes approved Watershed Plans for Clark's Run (Boyle County) and Hanging Fork (Lincoln County) Subwatersheds of the Dix River.

Current planned activities for Stormwater Improvements in Danville include a neighborhood project for streambank restoration, wetland enhancement, tree planting, a walking trail, and the installation of 5 rain gardens and 10 rain barrels within the project area. Field Days are planned in association with this project, and community volunteers can assist in planting the riparian zone.

Another objective of the grant is to correct failing septic systems within the Clark's Run and Hanging Fork Subwatersheds. The city will partner with the Boyle and Lincoln County Health Departments to achieve this goal. A model, depicting how a septic system works, is an available educational tool for use in both communities.

Bluegrass PRIDE will provide the education component of the grant to the community and K-12 students. Water education for 40 student groups will be offered during the 2011-12 and 2012-13 school years, including a series of activities leading to "Environmental Steward" certification for each participating student. In addition, 15 general community education opportunities will be provided, including summer camps, festivals, field days, club meetings and public presentations. [Deb Larkin](#) (Boyle Co.) and [Carol Bradford](#) (Lincoln Co.) are the Bluegrass PRIDE educators involved in this project.

SPRING 2011
HERE COMES THE SUN!

A Centre College volunteer plants a tree at Batewood Park for Earth Day



HOW TO HOLD A WASTE-FREE LUNCH!

What is a waste free lunch? A lunch from home to be eaten at school that generates little to no waste. Why prepare a waste free lunch? Many of our landfills are starting to reach capacity, and hauling and processing tons of trash uses energy and creates pollution.

Holding a waste free lunch day for your school is a great event to educate students and staff about where our waste goes. It is also an interactive activity that allows everyone to participate in reducing landfill-bound trash coming from the cafeteria. Having a waste free lunch day includes encouraging people who bring lunches from home to pack reusable silverware, containers, and napkins in order to reduce the waste their lunch produces. It also includes setting up alternate waste disposal in the cafeteria, such as compost and recycling, as well as landfill-bound trash. Food scraps such as fruits and vegetables, some breads and unbleached paper products can all be composted instead of thrown in a landfill.

Implementing a waste free lunch is an activity that a group of students can help start. In order to hold a waste free lunch, it is important to educate students and staff about packing a lunch that generates little waste. Fliers, posters and presentations are all effective ways to spread the word. It is also important to educate students and staff about items that can be composted and recycled instead of thrown away.

Contact your Bluegrass PRIDE educator at 866.222.1648 if your school is interested in implementing this program!



Frankfort High School students remind their fellow classmates that they want as little landfill-bound waste as possible on their Waste Free Lunch day!

Signs on garbage cans help students and staff know which bins to use for their lunch waste.



Frankfort High School students pose in front of their composting information posters during their school's Waste Free Lunch Day

SCOUTING ACTIVITIES

Several Boy Scout Troops converged onto Boonesboro State Park in March to help remove litter and explore the wonders of geospatial technology. Despite cold weather and a snowy weekend, Boy Scouts from many troops and volunteers worked together to remove over 500 lbs of debris from the park and along the Kentucky River shoreline. PRIDE's environmental educators took groups to conduct water quality testing along the river and had demonstrations on water quality assessment. Thanks Scouts and volunteers for a job well done!



Area Boy Scouts and community volunteers removed over 500 pounds of litter from Boonesboro State Park

WASTE REDUCTION IN JESSAMINE COUNTY SCHOOLS

Bluegrass PRIDE received a grant from Wal-Mart to implement a recycling program in Jessamine County Schools. This grant will provide waste audits, classroom bins, rolling carts and classroom lessons for participating schools. The waste audits are under way this spring, in the hope that recycling will be in full swing in the fall. Rumpke is providing a recycling dumpster for each school, which will be placed in early August. This summer, PRIDE will develop a School Resource Manual for waste reduction which will be available to all the schools in Jessamine County. PRIDE is excited to work with the Jessamine County schools!



Students at JCTC participate in the school's dumpster dive



SCHOOL RAIN GARDENS

Rain gardens are a hot topic at schools these days because they serve a multifunctional purpose. A rain garden is simply a garden planted in a shallow depression in the path of stormwater. The garden is typically planted with native plants and is designed to put stormwater back into the ground instead of being directed into a stormdrain.

The wonderful ability of these gardens to let stormwater infiltrate into the ground can eliminate erosion of stream beds that are too small to handle large amounts of fast-moving stormwater, which can lead to flooded banks during large rain events. Rain gardens also aid in preventing pollution from being directly routed into creeks and streams from pollution that may be sitting on our roads, sidewalks, roofs, lawns or any other impervious surface.

Rain gardens serve as an excellent tool for teaching students about watersheds, stormwater and water pollution. The gardens also provide students with hands-on experience with project management, landscaping and engineering concepts, soils and hydrologic movement, gardening, and native ecosystems. If the students are incorporated into the long-term plan of the garden the learning possibilities are endless.

It's important to have a concrete plan for your school's garden. The gardens should always be thought out in depth and, if possible, planned in the fall for a planting in the spring. This should give enough time for the careful consideration and planning that is required to make any school garden a success. Bluegrass PRIDE and the Bluegrass Rain Garden Alliance are available to offer educational and technical support as you plan your rain garden. Please feel free to utilize the resources that we can offer.



www.bluegrassraingardenalliance.org

www.bgpride.org

SUMMER CAMP OPPORTUNITIES

Whether you want to get the kids wet on a hot summer afternoon, make a craft, or learn more about the natural environment, PRIDE's educators have an activity to fit the bill! Our camp classes focus on water quality and waste reduction with fun camp twists.

Water Quality Sample Activities

Leaker tubes - An activity that is sure to get campers wet while they learn about water quality

Litter Cleanup - Campers perform a litter cleanup of camp grounds. PRIDE provides gloves and bags.

Stream tests - At stream site: Campers search for macroinvertebrates and perform chemical tests. In the classroom: Students will take part in a simulation of a macro hunt and ID macroinvertebrates.

Waste Reduction Sample Activities

Recycled Jewelry - Campers make jewelry from common items

Recycled Art Sculptures - Campers make art sculptures using common items

Rosie visit - Rosie the Recycling Bin loves to visit campers in Fayette County!

Contact Pattie Stivender to schedule a class or to discuss additional camp lesson suggestions.

Pattie@bgPRIDE.org

Local: 859.266.1572 Toll-free: 866.222.1648

PRIDE also has resources available for check out that can be used by camp staff. A list of resources is located at <http://bgpride.org/ResourceLibraryBuckets.htm>



Happy campers at the 2010 Flower Heads and Watershed Camp

ONLINE RESOURCES

Dumptown Game

Help Dumptown clean up! Implement programs to teach citizens how to recycle and save waste from going into the landfill.

<http://www.epa.gov/recyclecity/gameintro.htm>



Seussville

Fun games and activities with your favorite Dr. Seuss characters! Be sure to check out the Lorax activities to learn more about saving trees!

<http://www.seussville.com/>



Earth Day Footprint Calculator

Scroll to the bottom of the page and click on the Footprint tab. This interactive quiz helps you measure how many earths it will take to sustain your lifestyle!

<http://www.earthday.org/>

The Rotten Truth about Garbage!

Games and activities about composting, trash and landfills. See where your garbage goes, and learn how to compost or make recycled art!

<http://www.astc.org/exhibitions/rotten/activity.htm#compost>



Learning about Trees

Click on these links to learn more about trees, one of our most important resources. Play games and make some crafts to test your knowledge!

<http://www.arboday.org/kids/teachingYouth.cfm>

Entomology for Kids

Check out these links if you are interested in bugs! Find fun facts and identification activities for insects.

<http://www.ca.uky.edu/entomology/dept/youth.asp>



PRIDE WEBSITE CHANGES

PRIDE staff is busily updating our entire website! We have already improved the Live Green Lexington Apartment, Business and School webpages. Stayed tuned for more updates and check back frequently!

Happy Clicking!