

Blue Thumb Raingarden Project

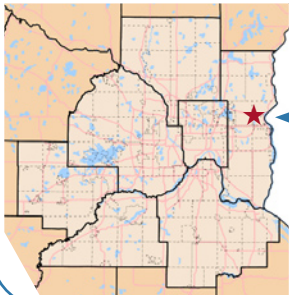
~Stillwater Country Club~



Above: A rock creek bed leads downhill from the club house to a series of rain gardens.

Project: In 2009, Stillwater Country Club installed landscaping to capture runoff from the parking lot and club house that was flooding the green and overflowing to a storm sewer leading to Brown's Creek, a trout stream. The steep hillside planting includes a dry creek that flows into several rain gardens. Brown's Creek Watershed provided a grant for the project and Washington Conservation District provided design assistance.

Location:
Stillwater, MN
St. Croix River Basin



Above: When the golf course floods, excess water is pumped out to a storm sewer that leads to Brown's Creek (shown in blue).

Below: A dragonfly in the new planting.



Above: Rain gardens in the new landscaping project capture runoff and soak it into the ground.



Practices:

- ~ Rain gardens
- ~ Dry creek

Benefits:

- ~ Reduces runoff to Brown's Creek
- ~ Removes pollutants
- ~ Reduces flooding on the green
- ~ Provides attractive landscaping
- ~ Educates public about water pollution

Partners:

- ~ Stillwater Country Club
- ~ Brown's Creek Watershed District
- ~ Washington Conservation District

Contractor:

- ~ St. Croix Valley Landscaping

Watershed:

- ~ Brown's Creek

Constructed:

- ~ July 2009



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Project Costs:

- ~ \$7,685 to St. Croix Valley Landscaping
- ~ \$1544 dry creek bed
- ~ \$5030 raingardens
- ~ \$445 edging
- ~ \$119 boulderscaping

*Stillwater Country Club received a \$5000 grant from the Brown's Creek Watershed District for this project.

Statistics:

- ~ Dry creek - 190 ft long
- ~ Raingarden #1 - 3400 sf
- ~ Raingarden #2 - 1300 sf
- ~ Raingarden #3 - 500 sf

~ The planting has a 56,000 sf drainage area with 15,650 sf of impervious surfaces (pavement and rooftop).

~ The project was designed to capture runoff from a 1-in rain.



Prior to installing landscaping, the hillside had an old dry creek that sent water downhill into a depression on the golf course.



When runoff flooded the green, it was pumped out to a storm sewer that led to Brown's Creek, a nearby trout stream.



St. Croix Valley Landscaping replaced the existing dry creek and created raingarden depressions within the planted areas.



A mixture of native plants and cultivars of natives were used to compliment existing landscaping on the course.



Two months after planting, the gardens were awash in fall colors.



As the plants mature, the raingardens will likely absorb more runoff.

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