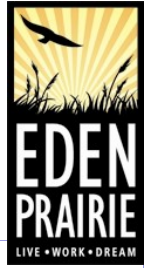


# ENVIRONMENTAL TIMES

Spring 2010



## Upcoming Events:

### Metro Blooms Rain Garden Seminars

April through August  
Go to [metroblooms.org](http://metroblooms.org) for more information and registration

### Living Green Expo

May 1 - May 2  
St. Paul Fairgrounds  
Go to [livinggreen.org](http://livinggreen.org) for more information.

### Night With the Watershed

Come learn more about the Riley-Purgatory-Bluff Creek Watershed District.  
Wednesday, May 5  
from 7 to 9 p.m.  
Chanhassen American Legion

### City Clean Up

Saturday, June 19  
8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
Hennepin Technical College

### ONE DAY Appliance Pickup

June 17 – \$25 each  
Call 952-894-1448 to reserve a spot

### Rain Barrel & Compost Bin SALE

Pre-order a barrel or bin by April 1 by going to [recycleminnesota.org](http://recycleminnesota.org)  
Extras will be for sale at the Living Green Expo.

## Inside this issue:

- BudBurst
- Compostable Bag Requirements
- Lawn Watering
- Rain Garden Workshops

## BudBurst – Become a Citizen Scientist

Do you love watching winter melt into spring or summer transform into fall? Do you want an excuse to get out of the house and into the woods or even ten steps out your back door?

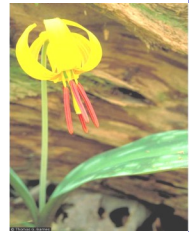
BudBurst is a national effort, where people from small towns to large cities go out and record what they see in nature. BudBurst first kicked off in the spring of 2007 with the initial backing of the Bureau of Land Management and has continued “growing” ever since.

The focus of the project is on phenology, the study of the timing of natural events. Examples of this would be, recording the date of when the first flowers appear in spring or what time migrating birds leave in the fall. After you collect your data in the field you would go to the BudBurst website and fill out an online form. Here you also get to see what other people, just like yourself, are observing across the nation. The website also provides useful resources like scientist blogs, photo sharing and identification guides.

Most recently BudBurst is working with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in a study to understand the impacts of changing climate. There are several refuges in the greater Twin Cities area as well as throughout the state. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service even helps to protect portions of the floodplain here in Eden Prairie.

Today the mission of BudBurst is maintained with the help of several research and academic organizations, like the Plant Conservation Alliance and National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. Budburst acts as a wonderful tool for teachers, families or individuals alike.

To learn more about BudBurst and become a citizen scientist today go to: [windows.ucar.edu/citizen\\_science/budburst](http://windows.ucar.edu/citizen_science/budburst)



The Dogtooth Violet (a.k.a. Trout Lily) in bloom.

## NEW—Compostable Bags Required for Yard & Organic Waste Collection

Starting January 1, 2010 haulers collect yard and organic waste that is placed in a compostable bag **ONLY**. Your yard waste hauler no longer picks up yard waste if it is placed in a plastic bag.

**What can be used?** Rolling carts, Kraft paper bags (they look like large brown paper bags) and compostable plastic bags are all acceptable. Look for bags that are certified as compostable under the ASTM D6400 standard.

For information on compostable products, check out the following websites:

[rethinkrecycling.com](http://rethinkrecycling.com)

[bpiworld.org](http://bpiworld.org) (Biodegradable Products Institute)

## RAIN GARDEN WORKSHOPS

Curious about raingardens and how they can help improve stormwater running off your yard or from your neighborhood? Need to find a new way to infiltrate sump pump drainage or runoff from your gutters? Metro Blooms will be scheduling a number of rain garden workshops in the surrounding area to help. These rain garden workshops consist of three parts.

Part A - Basic information on rain gardens

Part B - Personal rain garden design assistance. You must complete the Part A workshop first.

On-site Consultation - A Landscape Design Assistant will come to your property to answer property-specific questions.

The cost for the Part A workshops is \$10. Please go to the Metro Blooms web site for dates, locations and more information on the workshops. Check their website often as locations are always being added. Funding for local workshops provided in part by the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District.

### Raingarden Construction / Shoreland Restoration REBATE:

The City of Eden Prairie currently has a rebate program for shoreland restoration and rain garden construction projects. The maximum rebate for any single project is 50% of the direct project costs up to a maximum of \$500 and is subject to the participants commitment to complete and maintain their project for four years. Funding is limited and is provided on a first-come, first-serve basis. The project must start and be completed in the current calendar year.



## CONTACT INFORMATION

Leslie Stovring  
Environmental Coordinator

City of Eden Prairie  
8080 Mitchell Road

Phone: 952-949-8327

Fax: 952-949-8326

E-mail:

lstovring@edenprairie.org

### Part A Workshops:

#### Bloomington Public Works

1700 W. 98th Street

Thursday, May 6th from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

### Part B Workshops:

#### Bloomington Public Works

1700 W. 98th Street

Thursday, May 20th from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

### Combined A & B Workshops:

#### Chanhassen City Hall Senior Center

7700 Market Blvd.

Thursday, March 11th from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.

#### Wayzata City Hall Community Room

600 Rice Street

Thursday, March 18th from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.

#### City of Chaska

Location to be determined

Tuesday, April 27th from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.

#### South Shore Community Center

5735 Country Club Road, Shorewood

Tuesday, May 11th from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.

#### City of Eden Prairie - Heritage Rooms 3&4

8080 Mitchell Road

Tuesday, May 25th from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.

## SUMMER LAWN WATERING REMINDER

The City has **permanent, year-round** watering restrictions:

- Odd/Even – odd numbered addresses water on odd numbered days of the month (1, 3, 5, etc.), even on even days of the month (0, 2, 4, etc.).
- NO lawn irrigation between noon and 5 p.m.
- Watering restrictions are for lawn watering only and do not include outdoor activities such as car washing or children playing with water toys. Private wells are exempt from the lawn irrigation restrictions, however it is recommended that City guidelines be followed.



### Lawn Watering Violations

If the above restrictions are violated, a non-compliance fee will be added to water utility bills. No warnings are given. The rate schedule for violations is listed at [edenprairie.org](http://edenprairie.org).

### Exemptions

Lawn watering exemptions from the odd / even schedule are available for 30 days for new sod or landscaping. There are no exemptions from the noon to 5 p.m. watering ban.