



BAY AREA
RESTORATION
COUNCIL



WHAT IS THE RAINGERS PROGRAM?

Green Venture and the Bay Area Restoration Council are partnering to bring this new program to engage students and schools in the Hamilton Harbour Watershed through a hands-on, experiential stormwater management education program. Over the next three years the program will educate students about the natural and urban water cycle and demonstrate how stormwater is managed in their City. The Rangers program includes the **building of one rain garden at each participating school** as a practical and positive solution to stormwater! A “champion class” at each school takes on the program and helps to plant the garden.

WHAT IS A RAIN GARDEN?

A rain garden is a sunken garden planted with deep-rooted native plants and grasses designed to capture, absorb and naturally filter stormwater. A strategically placed rain garden will intercept the flow of polluted stormwater and allow it to slowly infiltrate into the ground rather than entering our creeks and sewers. This will decrease stormwater runoff, naturally filter pollutants, and recharge our groundwater aquifers. In cities the proliferation of hard surfaces interrupts the water cycle, preventing infiltration. Over 50% of rainfall becomes stormwater runoff – a serious and growing problem in urban areas – and climate change is increasing the frequency of moderate to severe wet weather. Today, a new era in stormwater management is dawning: managing rain where it falls, before it can run off.

WHY BUILD A RAIN GARDEN AT YOUR SCHOOL?

Rain gardens provide a perfect setting to teach about water quality, habitat creation and the impact of student actions on protecting Hamilton Harbour and its watershed. The plants in a rain garden have high tolerance for excess moisture and increased levels of nutrients often found in stormwater. These gardens can be a powerful tool to make connections among climate, land development, water quality, and personal actions. Students will understand how they are connected to the environment and local watersheds, as well as view themselves as active participants in, and stewards of, the environment around them and urban water quality.

REGISTRATION IS EASY

Please fax or e-mail the registration form below to request a site visit. Note that your school must have water access outside of the building and an adequate rain garden location (for example, where rain water runs off an impermeable surface onto grass/dirt).

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact: Steve Watts, Communications and Program Manager

Phone: (905) 527-7111; Email: swatts@hamiltonharbour.ca

REGISTRATION FORM

Scan and email: swatts@hamiltonharbour.ca

Fax: 905-522-6066

Name:	Phone:
Email:	
School Name: School Address: City:	
Does your school have access to water on the outside of the building (hose, spigot, etc.)? Yes No	
Grade of champion class:	
Do you have a potential location for the rain garden (where rain water runs off impermeable surface(s))? Yes No	