



SHAWNEE
K A N S A S

Neighborhood Watershed

April Showers Bring May Flowers

A great way to encourage water quality this spring is to incorporate native plants into your landscaping. Non-native plants may grow well, but their root systems do not tend to penetrate the earth as deep as native plants do. Deeper depth encourages stormwater to go back to the underground water table cleaner, since it can be filtered through the root systems and the soils underneath. This helps to reduce pollutants that can make our water unhealthy. Utilizing native plants and grasses in our yards is great for the environment. Native lawns require less mowing, less bagging of grass clippings, and less watering (which means less run-off) than non-native landscapes. Consider these facts:

- ◆ A lawn mower pollutes as much in one hour as 40 automobiles driving
- ◆ 30-60 percent of urban fresh water is used for watering lawns
- ◆ 67 million pounds of pesticides are used on U.S. lawns each year
- ◆ 580 million gallons of gasoline are used in lawnmowers each year
- ◆ \$25 billion is spent on lawn care each year in the U.S.

Four native species that work well in the Kansas City area are:

1. Buffalo Grass (*Buchloe dactyloides*)
2. Shoreline Sedge (*Carex hyalinolepis*)
3. Sweet Flag (*Acorus calamus*)
4. Prairie Dropseed (*Sporobolus*)

A selection of native plants that work well along slopes and fringe areas, as well as shorelines for bodies of water can be found on our website!

Don't forget! Incorporating these and other Kansas native plants into your landscape qualifies you for the BMP Cost/Share program through Johnson County Stormwater Management and the City of Shawnee. Call Jonathan Wiles at (913) 742-6292 or visit http://www.cityofshawnee.org/stormwater_bmpcostshare for more details.





Stormwater Management
11110 Johnson Drive
Shawnee, KS 66203

Healthy Yards Expo

The City of Shawnee is proud to be hosting the **FREE** “Healthy Yards Expo” on **Saturday, April 2** at the Shawnee Civic Centre (13817 Johnson Drive) from 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.! Come learn about good maintenance practices for your lawn and get your soil tested for **FREE** (www.johnson.ksu.edu/soiltest). For more information on the Johnson County Healthy Yards Expo, visit www.johnson.ksu.edu or call (913) 715-7000.



Contact the Stormwater Division to report an illicit discharge or stormwater related issue at (913) 742-6230 or stormwater@cityofshawnee.org