



# Getting Rain Gardens Built without Lifting a Shovel

Susan Bryan  
Washtenaw County Michigan,  
Water Resources Commissioner's Office



Funded by







Master Rain Gardener class

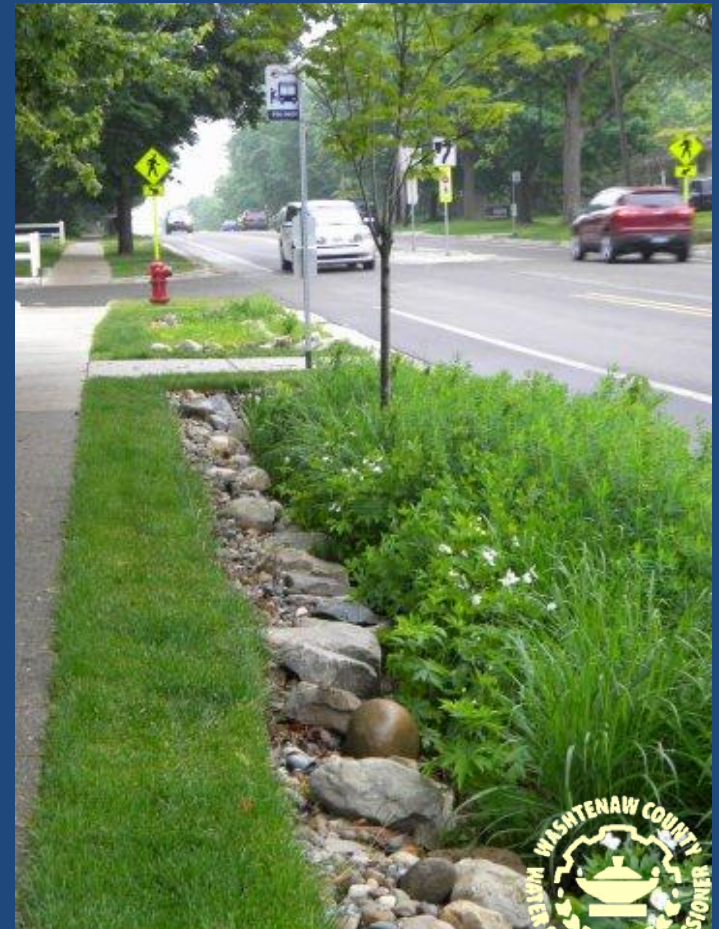


UofM Nichols Arboretum  
Harvard bioinfiltration area



# Susan Bryan

Washtenaw County Water  
Resources Commissioner's  
Office



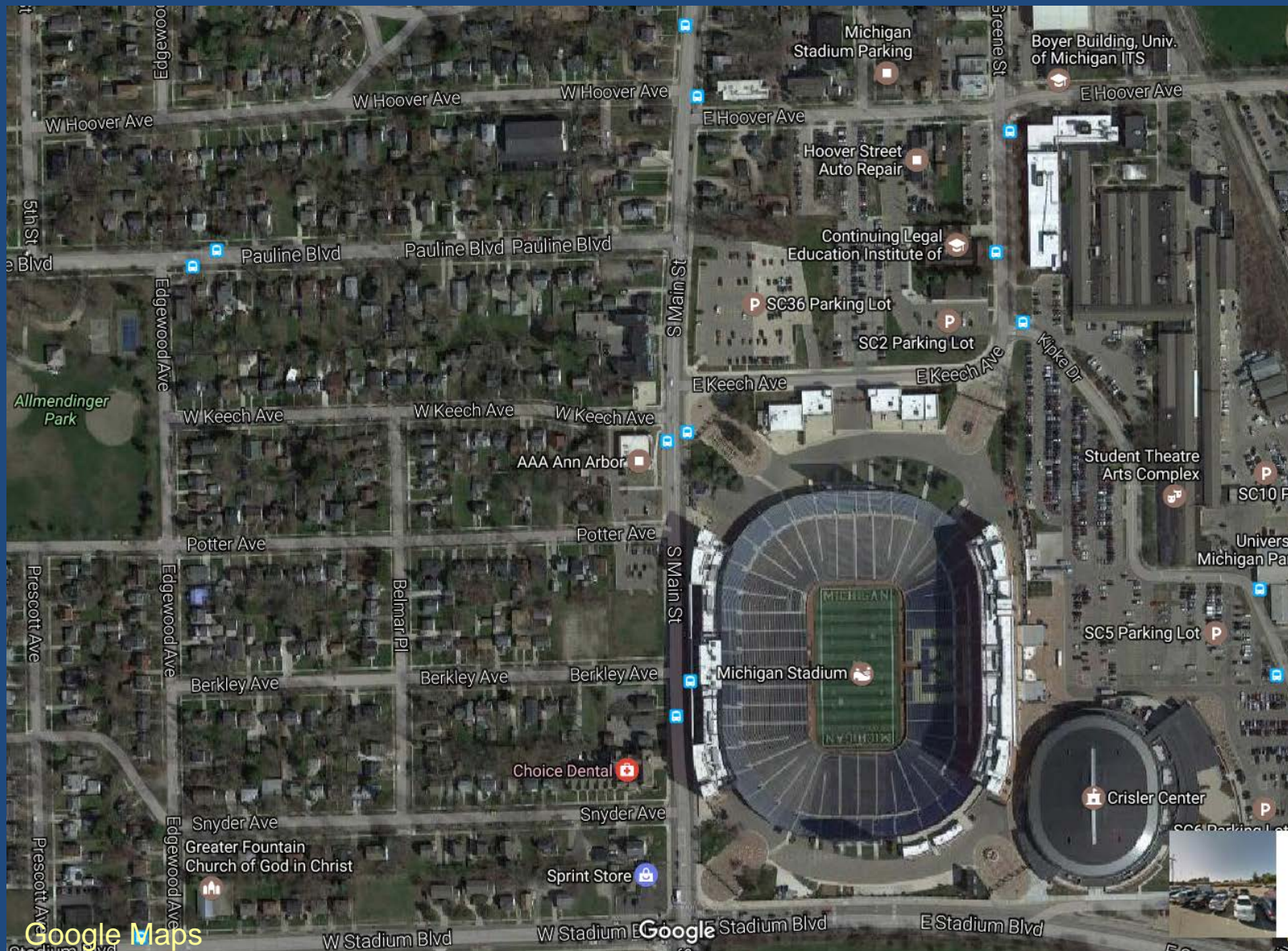
Miller Avenue Rain Gardens, Ann Arbor





# Benefits

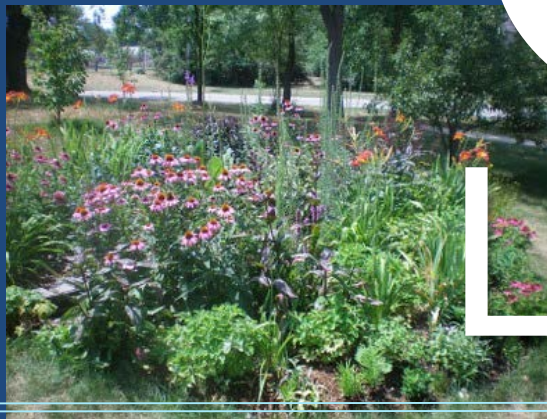
# Rain Gardens Get Built





# Benefits

# Rain Gardens Get Built



80  
Last year



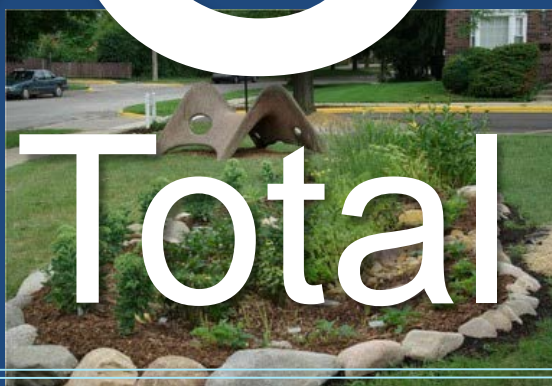
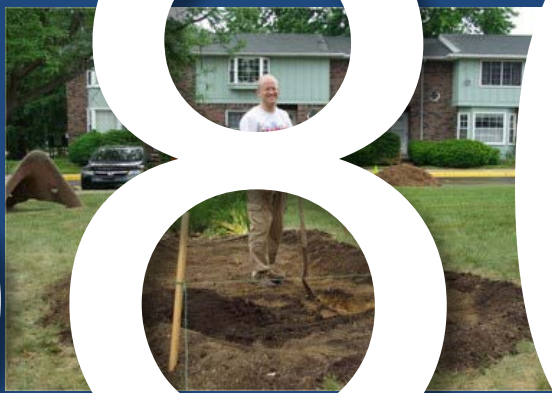


# Benefits

# Rain Gardens Get Built

380

Total





# Fishing Lessons Teaching the MRG Class



Susan Bryan & Shannan Gibb-Randall



### Program Goal:

- *Make vegetative infiltration the norm for landscaping practices in Washtenaw County*





### Cost

\$2,500 worth  
of design for  
each garden.\*

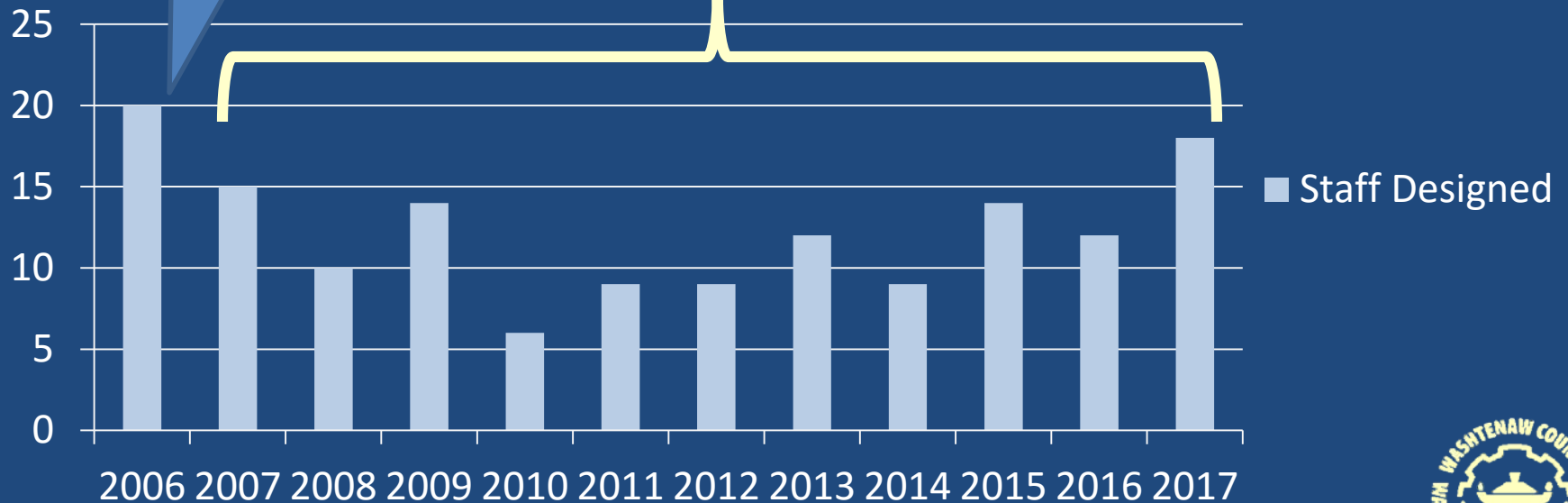
\*not including staff time.



### Number of Rain Gardens Built- Staff designed

We start  
designing rain  
gardens with a  
\$100K  
MDEQ Grant

Self-funded





# Fishing Lessons Teaching the MRG Class



design

dig

mulch & plant



# Fishing Lessons Teaching the MRG Class

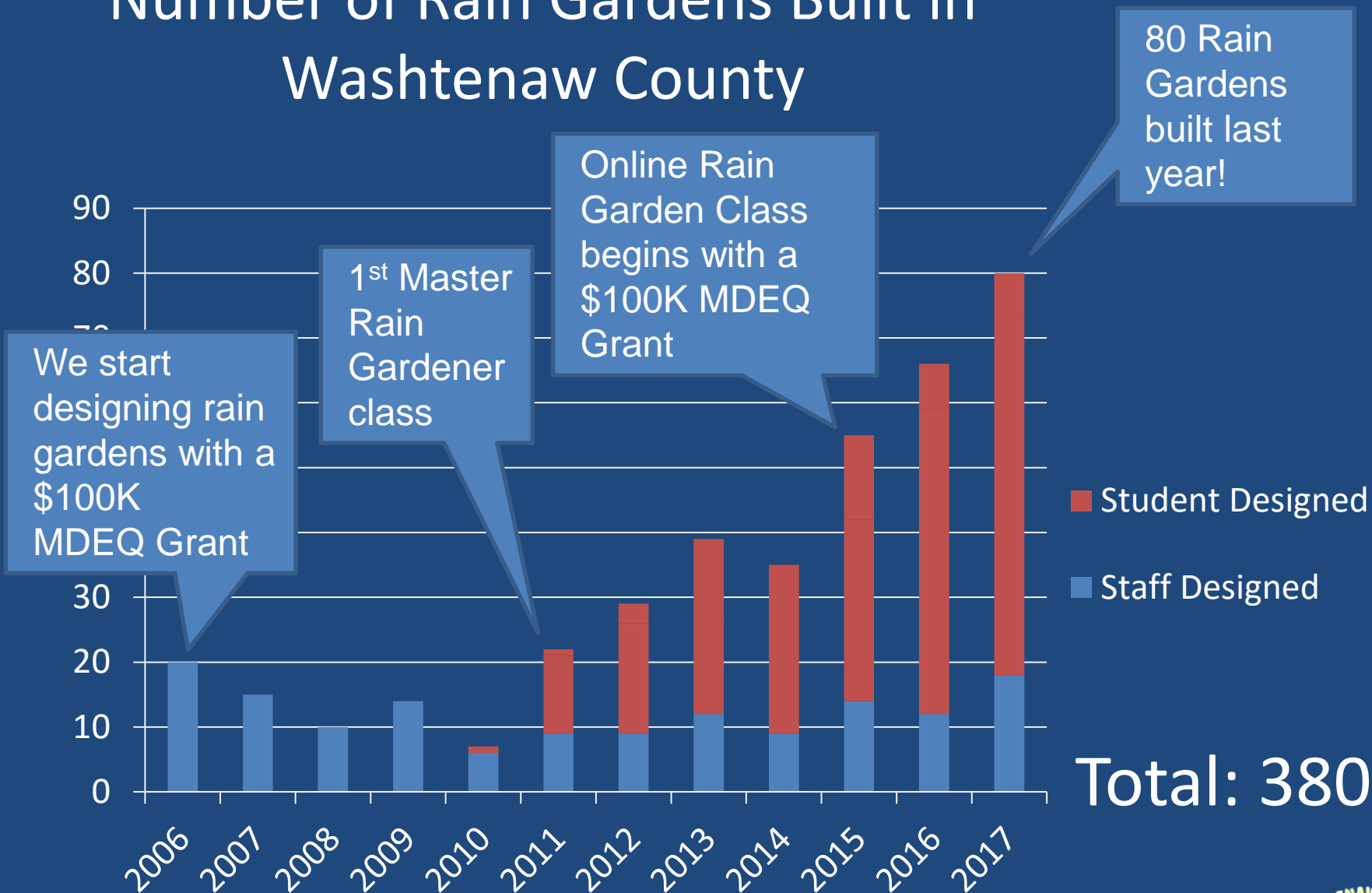


Photo by Susan Bryan





# Number of Rain Gardens Built in Washtenaw County



Total: 380





# Fishing Lessons Teaching the MRG Class

Master Rain Gardeners are peer educators



Photo by Susan Bryan





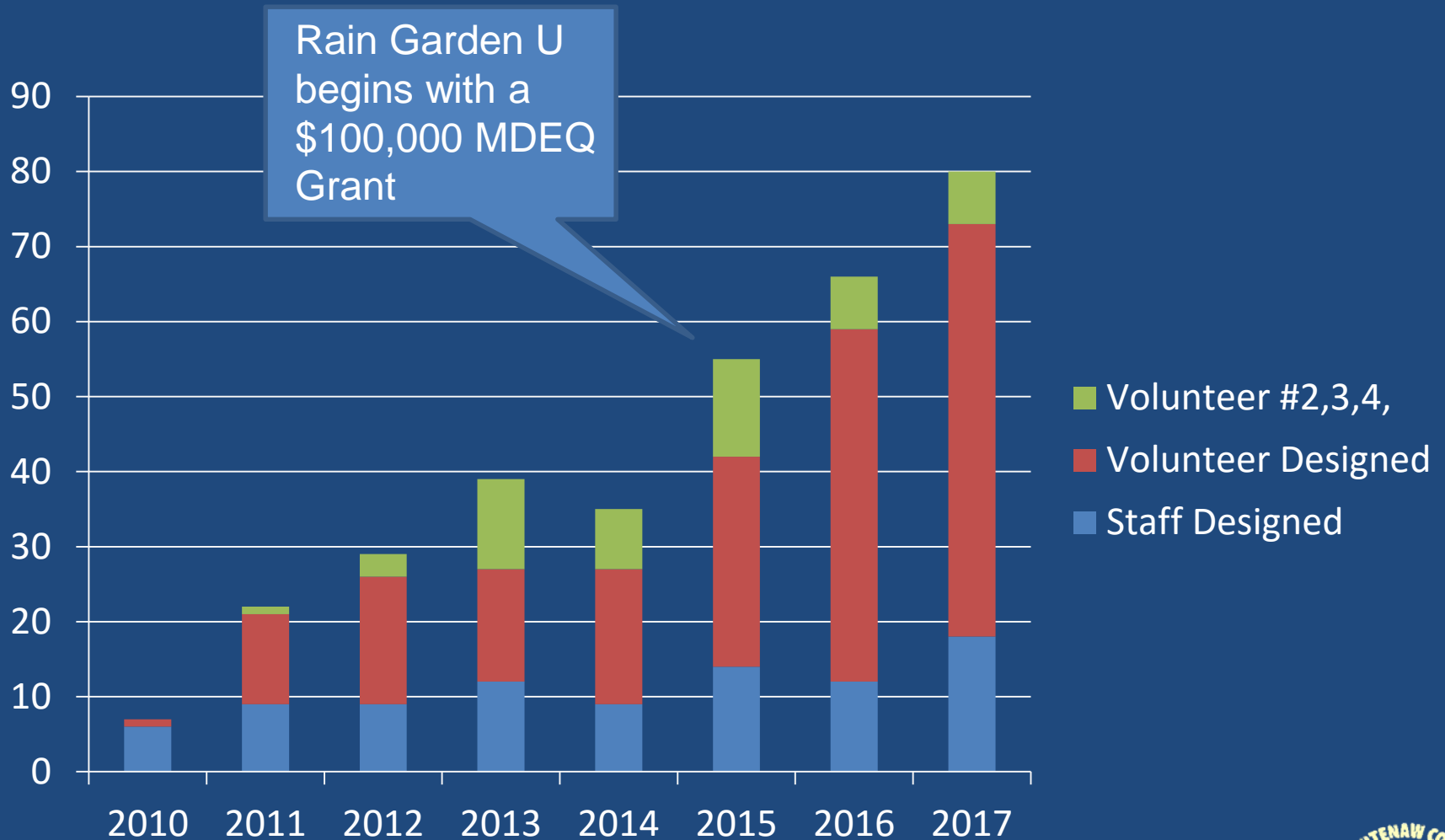


Jan Wolfe, rain garden champion

### Rain Garden Champions



# Number of Rain Gardens Built





# We Taped It

# So you don't have to . . .

Master Rain Gardener Certification class 1 2016



Malletts Creek Restoration, Ann Arbor



Funding by:





# Introductions

Shannan Gibb-Randall




INSITE






# Fishing Lessons Building Community






Master Rain Gardeners


Q




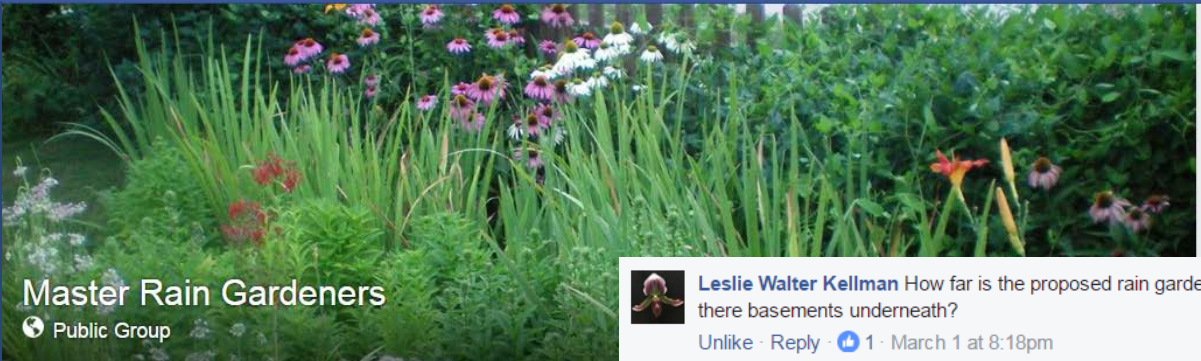
Susan Home




44









**Master Rain Gardeners**  
Public Group





**Denice Virgo**  
March 1 at 7:07pm


Susan, my site selected for your feedback. Posted is my house and the proposed site of a rain garden which I hope to be on the front left side of house. Note there would be two sources of water, one is the drainspout on that left side of the house. Second is the white pipe you see sticking out to the front left of the house. This pipe is part of the house's B-Dry System that regularly pulls water away from my basement foundation and shoots outside presently into a shallow ditch on the side of the lawn. That water then flows down to the street then down the storm/water gutter on the street. What a waste! Questions and feedback? Thanks!







**Leslie Walter Kellman** How far is the proposed rain garden from the houses? Are there basements underneath?  
Unlike · Reply ·  1 · March 1 at 8:18pm

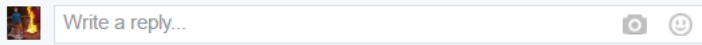



**Denice Virgo** It will be at least 10 ft. from my house. Yes, my house has a basement. It is just the one yellow house.  
Like · Reply ·  1 · March 1 at 8:46pm · Edited





**Susan Bryan** And it will be 10' from your neighbor's house, right? 😊  
Like · Reply · March 2 at 9:27am

 [View more replies](#)






**David Dye** Looks like a good spot to me- one drain tile should be able to handle both sources. In the first picture off to the left there is mulch, is there a tree you need to be concerned about?  
Unlike · Reply ·  1 · March 2 at 7:09am



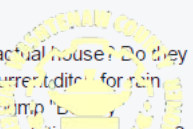
**Denice Virgo** Hi David, no concern at all. It's actually a shared space with neighbor that is a shallow ditch, with basically weeds and such in there. My rain garden site will be some feet away and on my side on the property line. Thanks, David!  
Like · Reply · March 2 at 6:25pm



**Roger A. Moon** I'd be curious to know how often your sump pump runs. My neighbor has a sump fed RG and there is a huge amount of water there which has required the RG to be deepened and enlarged.  
Like · Reply · March 3 at 10:35am



**Mallory V Walczesky** Is the green building your neighbor's actual house? Do they have a basement? It might be beneficial to "spruce" up the current ditch for rain garden purposes. I also am interested in knowing the sump pump details.





# You can offer it too

## Tips & Lessons Learned

1. Recruit knowledgeable hosts.
2. Offer a Field Trip
3. Keep in touch and celebrate their success & continued growth as leaders.



Photo by Linda Prieskorn, MRG



# You can offer it too

# Tips & Lessons Learned

## Recruit knowledgeable Hosts



Photo by Linda Prieskorn, MRG





# You can offer it too

# Tips & Lessons Learned

## Offer a field trip



Photo by Linda Prieskorn, MRG

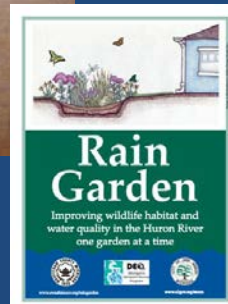




# You can offer it too

# Tips & Lessons Learned

## Keep in touch & celebrate their successes



Graciela Rubalcava, MRG



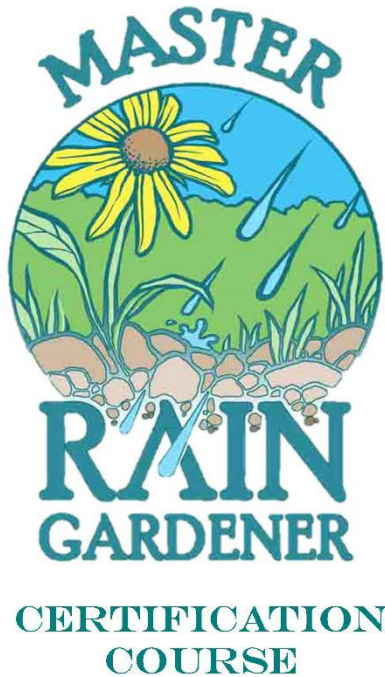
Photo by Susan Bryan





# You can offer it too

# Tips & Lessons Learned



## Instructor Handbook

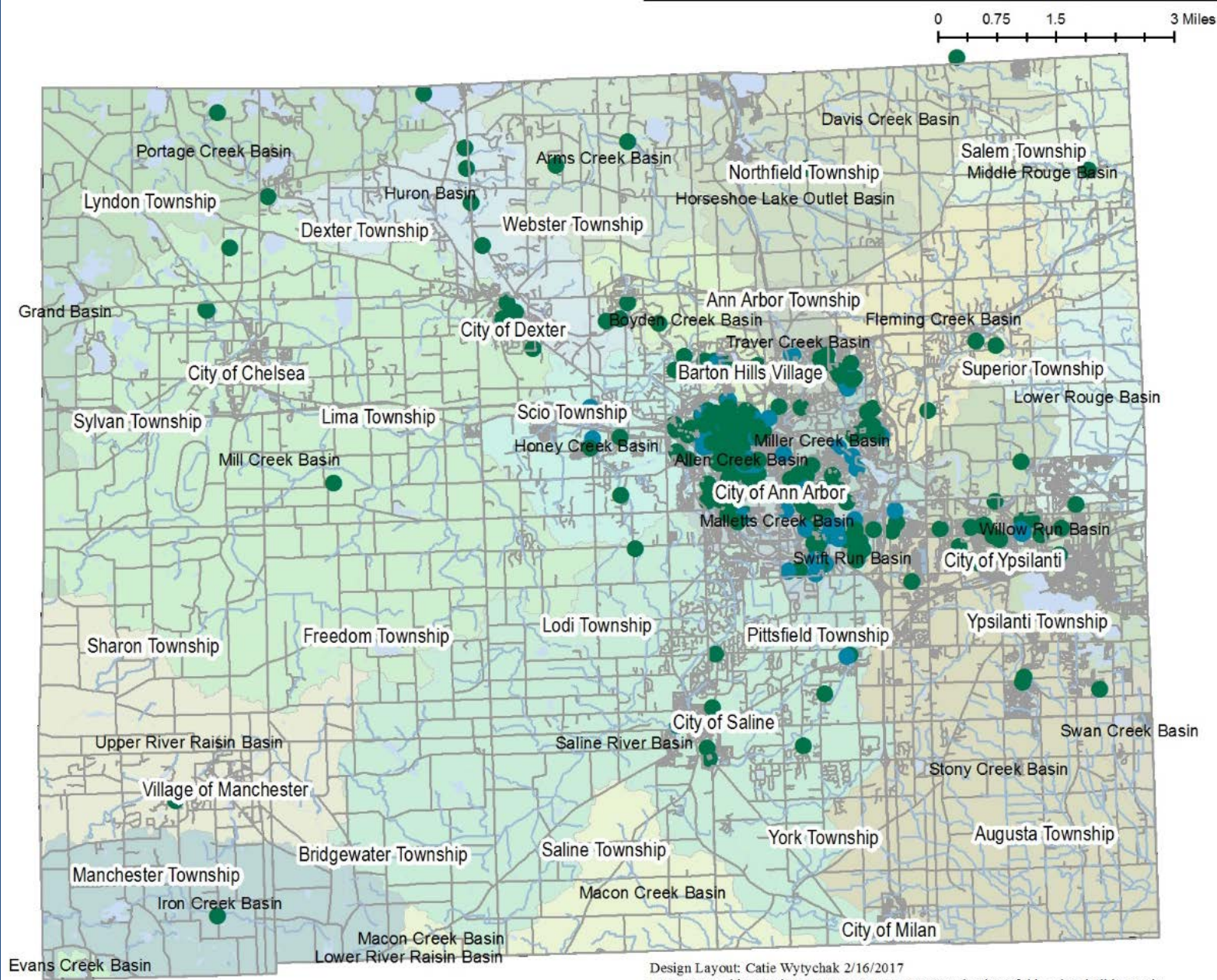
Washtenaw County  
Water Resources  
Commissioner's Office

October 11, 2017





# Rain Gardens in Washtenaw County



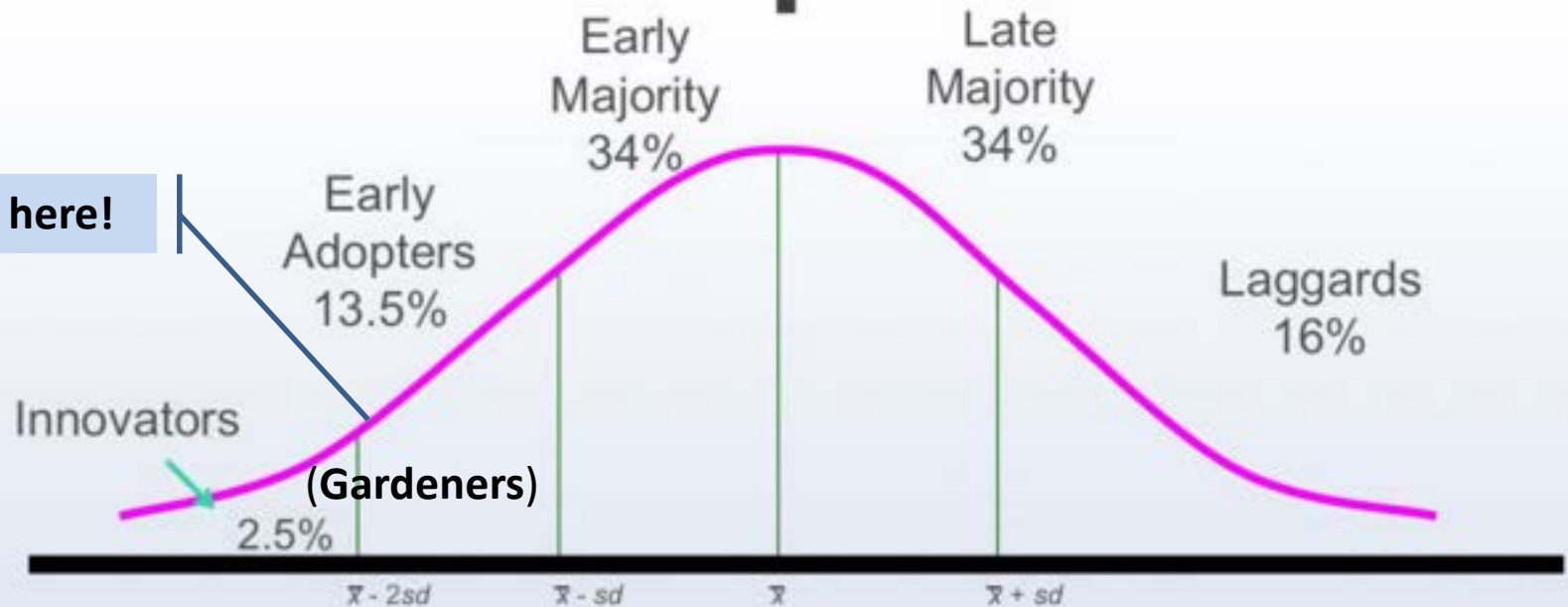
Design Layout: Catie Wytychak 2/16/2017

Map Prepared by Washtenaw County GIS. No reproduction of this print shall be made





# Innovativeness and Adoption



Rogers, Everett M. 1995. *Diffusion of Innovations*



**“I find myself driving/walking and looking for houses that need rain gardens!”**

**“With the class, I feel confident. But I would not have tackled this project without taking the class.”**

**“Great class!!”**

**-Student feedback**



Let's partner!  
Access the class on YouTube  
Master Rain Gardener  
And send me a note

Susan Bryan

Washtenaw County Water Resources Commissioner's Office

[bryans@ewashtenaw.org](mailto:bryans@ewashtenaw.org)

Funded by:





# Giving Fishes Away

## Designing Rain Gardens

