

## Community Project Proposal

**Name:** Polly Powell

**Country:** USA

<b>Community Project Title</b>	<b>Rain Garden</b>
<b>Community Project Synopsis</b>	<b>Location:</b> Hughes Academy of Science and Technology, Greenville, SC
	<b>Benefits of project:</b> During storms, a huge amount of water runoff flows out of gutters and off impervious surfaces such as roofs, parking lots and driveways into storm drains. A rain garden allows water that would otherwise build up and cause flooding or carry pollutants into local streams, lakes, and rivers to gradually soak into the soil. It also reduces areas of standing water that provide breeding sites for mosquitoes. An additional benefit is that the plants used in a rain garden are local, native perennials, shrubs and trees that provide food and shelter for birds, butterflies, beneficial insects and other creatures. Once established, the garden is low maintenance. It does not require mowing, fertilizing or regular watering. This utilitarian garden is designed to be an attractive landscaping feature that offers enjoyment to its viewers.
	<b>Brief description of project:</b> A rain garden is a shallow depression, typically 6" to 8", which mimics the natural environment by allowing water that runs off impervious (hard) surfaces to soak into the ground. The rain garden at Hughes Academy of Science and Technology will be installed between a covered walkway and the front of the main school building. The garden, a kidney bean shape, will be 140 square feet. It will gently slope towards the existing storm sewer grate inlet.
<b>Community Project Outline</b>	<b>Proposed duration of project:</b> April, 2009 – November 2009
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Invite Brian Beherns to present power point on rain garden to Voyagers Science Club</li> <li>2. Show students previously located site</li> <li>3. Check with public works for utility wires and pipes in location</li> <li>4. Lay out shape of garden</li> <li>5. Choose native plants for garden from recommended list</li> <li>6. Visit local nurseries for plants (Ask for contributions)</li> <li>7. Solicit funding from other sources, ie. Greenville County Soil and Water Conservation District</li> <li>8. Rent backhoe to excavate clay soil to a depth of 2 feet</li> </ol>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9. Purchase supplies needed for garden (plants, sand, top soil, compost, drain pipe. river rock)</li> <li>10. Fill in excavated hole with sand, top soil and compost</li> <li>11. Plant native plants</li> <li>12. Water garden until plants are established</li> <li>13. Install informational plaque with partners and explanation listed</li> <li>14. Enjoy added landscape at the entrance to the school</li> </ol>
<p><b>Community Project Reporting</b></p>	<p>Benchmarks used to determine the success of the project:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Diversion of rain water from the sidewalks and roofs to the sewer grate</li> <li>2. Involvement of 75% of the students in the Voyagers Club in the preparation and installation of the rain garden.</li> <li>3. Involvement of 10 parents/school personnel/community partners in the preparation and installation of the rain garden</li> <li>4. Placement of native shrubs and perennials in the garden.</li> <li>5. Visitation of various species of animals to the rain garden for food and shelter</li> <li>6. Favourable comments from the general public concerning the usefulness and beauty of the project.</li> </ol>