



Local News

Seminar looks at how to naturally protect water resources

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By H-P STAFF

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KALAMAZOO - Builders, planners, local government officials and others can get up-to-date information about protecting water quality with green infrastructure at a workshop from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. April 26 at the Fetzer Center at Western Michigan University.

Those attending can discuss techniques, resources and hear about local examples of green infrastructure use from experts in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

EPA employee Jenny Molloy, who formerly worked for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment, will be featured speaker.

Green infrastructure is a connected network of natural areas such as wetlands and wooded plots, parks and other land that naturally manages storm water. Such areas can control storm runoff, improve water quality and reduce flooding.

One topic is using natural systems, or engineered systems that mimic natural systems, to treat polluted runoff and protect streams, inland lakes and Lake Michigan.

Other topics to be discussed will include: designing and incorporating green infrastructure into new developments and redevelopment projects to manage wet weather events; saving on construction costs while protecting water resources; and meeting permit compliance requirements with green infrastructure.

The workshop, which costs \$15 per person, is being conducted by the EPA, DNRE, Freshwater Future, Western Michigan University, Southwest Michigan Planning Commission, Friends of the St. Joe River, Kalamazoo River Watershed Council and Two Rivers Coalition.

Information can be obtained by contacting Marcy Colclough, senior planner at the planning commission, at 925-1137, Ext. 25, or e-mail colcloughm@swmpc.org.

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