

December 11, 2024

Hello School Leader,

The City of Stevens Point Public Utilities Department and Recycling Connections are partnering to offer an opportunity for at least one school installation of a rain garden (or native prairie garden). Rain Gardens offer many benefits to a landscape including:

- improving groundwater
- protecting streams and lakes
- preventing flooding

- aesthetics
- supporting pollinators
- enrich learning opportunities

Schools are a great location to highlight these features and offer a great outdoor learning space for classrooms.

The following 4 schools received a demonstration garden in the last two years:

- Ben Franklin Junior High School
- Point of Discovery School

- McKinley Elementary School
- SPASH

With this program, the awarded school receives full funding to install a rain garden on-site, but also planning support, resources, and professional development for 18 months. Details are posted online at <u>www.recyclingconnections.org/schoolgarden</u>.

Requirements:

- Be a school in the City of Stevens Point (public or private)
- Organize a garden leadership team of at least 4 people representing the school to be a part of this effort. The team may consist of teachers, admin, staff, students, or parents, but must have at least 2 teachers on the team.
- Submit a letter of interest to Recycling Connections by JANUARY 24, 2025

The selected school(s) will be announced in February 2025 with planning starting soon after that. We look forward to hearing from you!

Sincerely,

Susan Schuller

Executive Director Recycling Connections Susan@RecyclingConnections.org 715-343-0722

Joel Lemke, Director City of Stevens Point Public Utilities

**Recycling Connections Corporation** is a non-profit organization that specializes in connecting people, resources and communities to promote waste reduction, reuse, recycling and resource conservation.