



We champion stewardship of
the land and waters.

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VSN's Conservation on Tap

Managing Storm Water Locally Through Rain Gardens and Other Structures

VIROQUA, WI January 18, 2018 – Continuing our series of presentations on conservation in the Driftless Area, the Valley Stewardship Network (VSN) is pleased to welcome geologist Karl Green to the *Conservation on Tap* forum. Karl is a Professor with the Department of Community Resource Development for UW Extension La Crosse County. He will discuss storm water management and why we should care about this. “Residents need to understand how storm water negatively impacts local water bodies, and our actions at home can reduce the amount of storm water generated.” explains Green. “The most difficult issue about non-point source pollution that people should understand is how their own actions can add to, or reduce the problem.”

In city and urban landscapes, much of our natural land has been developed in a way that does not permit natural water infiltration. Storm sewer systems designed to handle storms of certain magnitudes or less are being overwhelmed. Storm sewer systems do not treat storm water, only convey it from one place to another. Storm water runoff is a major source of B.O.D (biological oxygen demand), suspended solids and turbidity in local watersheds.

The event will be held at the Rooted Spoon, 219 S Main St., Viroqua, WI on February 13, 2019 from 7 – 9 pm. In the Driftless, especially after flooding in the area last August, it serves us well to think about storm water management. Join us to learn about the impacts of storm water and the benefits of rain gardens and barrels and how ultimately, they can help protect the water in our region (and maybe even our basements!).

While Karl spends a significant amount of time working with housing and neighborhood data analysis, he also has focused on storm water issues in La Crosse County. In 2006, Karl organized and convened a group of 8 local municipalities and La Crosse County in an intergovernmental agreement for storm water public education and outreach. Eleven years later, this agreement stills exists and allows La Crosse municipalities to unify with one voice on storm water management. Karl uses his background in hydrogeology to illustrate the important role rain gardens play in sustaining the local aquifer.

Karl has an MBA from UW-La Crosse, and a Bachelor's of Science in Geology from Winona State University. Prior to Karl's 12-year career with UW Extension, he worked as a Professional Geologist for a local civil engineering firm. His nine years of engineering, surveying and hydro geologic field experience provided an education on the ways things work and are constructed. Karl lives in La Crosse with his wife and two children. His rain garden has captured an estimated 200,000 gallons since he installed it in 2007.

The presentation is free and open to the public. For questions, please call 68-637-3615 or email info@valleystewardshipnetwork.org

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Valley Stewardship Network is celebrating 18 years of land and water stewardship in the Kickapoo Valley and adjacent watersheds. Best known for its water quality monitoring programs, VSN also offers outreach and education programs to help farmers, landowners, residents and visitors understand and support our local ecology for the health of our communities. More at www.valleystewardshipnetwork.org