



LAST CALL! GET INVOLVED!

- Contact us for consulting assistance - Available Until 5/12/25
- Go to the [Engage R1](#) webpage to see project updates and provide feedback.
- **Volunteer opportunities for planting assistance at Park-Er-Woods now available. See below for more info and to sign up.**

FINAL PUSH: HELP US PLANT PLUGS FOR A GREENER BIOSWALE

We're excited to share some great news — our **Water Quality Improvement Project** is still ongoing, and a **bioswale** has just been built right in our neighborhood! This is a big step toward cleaner water, a greener environment, and a healthier community.

The countdown is on to kickstart native plug planting in our bioswale project at Park-Er - Woods on **May 3 and 6 2025**.

Seize the opportunity to join us at Park Er Woods and contribute

to this impactful initiative! Together, let's make a difference for our community, our watershed and the environment at large!



Attractive bioswale design. [Greendale Grange Ave Bioswale](#), 2010; Aaron Volkening, CC BY 2.0.

A **bioswale** is like a shallow garden with special plants and soil that helps soak up rainwater. When it rains, water runs off roads and sidewalks, picking up pollution like oil, sediment, and chemicals. A bioswale slows this water down and filters out the bad stuff before it reaches our rivers, lakes, and streams

CURRENT STATE OF THE BIOSWALE



The bioswale at Park-Er-Woods has been built, seeded, and covered with a protective blanket. It's all set and waiting for native plants to be installed soon.

UPCOMING EVENTS



Saturday May 03, 2025

Park-Er-Woods Planting Installation

Planting native vegetation at Park-Er-Woods project site. The first date set for planting is Saturday May 3, 2024. Sign up to volunteer for this planting event using the volunteer sign up link below.



Tuesday May 06, 2025

Park-Er-Woods Planting Installation

Planting native vegetation at Park-Er-Woods project site. The second date set for planting is Tuesday May 6, 2024. Sign up to volunteer for this planting event using the volunteer sign up link below.

QUESTIONS? CONTACT

Estelle Adiaba

Outreach Coordinator

eadiaba@r1planning.org

For more information, visit
project website: [Engage R1](#)

[Volunteer Sign Up Link](#)

UNLOCK THE EXPERIENCE: JOIN OUR SITE TOUR



Join R1 and partners on a tour and information session of the best management practice (bioretention basin) installed at Ken Rock Park.

Come see how the plant plugs will, in time, bloom to beautify the location, sleeping in the first year, creeping in the next year, and leaping to full bloom within the next three years.

Contact Program Outreach Coordinator Estelle Adiaba (eadiaba@r1planning.org) for more information and to schedule a tour.

START YOUR RAIN GARDEN TODAY - WE ARE HERE TO HELP!



Image Source: Alliance for the Cheapeake Bay

If you are still interested in putting in a rain garden, consulting assistance is available until 5/12/2025! Olson Ecological Solutions will help with evaluating your property. For more information, or to schedule a consultation, please contact Program Outreach Coordinator Estelle Adiaba (eadiab@r1planning.org) so that she can assist with determining eligibility. For more information, visit the [Engage R1 Page](#)

Whether you have a small or large group, be it an HOA, church or school, organize a session with us to learn about water quality and nonpoint source pollution – we're happy to come to you and share our expertise. Sign up [here](#).

PLANTING MADE EASY AT PARK - ER - WOODS



Planting in the bioswale is easy and fun! We've already used augers to drill holes in the ground, so you don't need to dig. Just take a plant plug and place it gently into one of the holes. Press the soil firmly around the plant so it's snug and won't come out if it rains or gets windy. That's it – you've planted a native plant and helped support the environment!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Help Save the Watershed!

HELP R1 PLANT NATIVE
VEGETATION PLUGS!



What is the 319 Watershed Education Grant?

Region 1 Planning Council (R1) has received Section 319 Grant funding from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) to conduct research and activities to educate and encourage local watershed stakeholders to adopt non-point source (NPS) pollution control best management practices (BMPs). The grant includes the construction of two demonstration BMP projects; a bioretention basin in the Buckbee Creek watershed, and a bioswale in the South Fork Kent Creek watershed.

Project Site Location Information

Park-Er-Woods Park address is 6700 Claremont Street, Rockford IL (61102). The improvement site is at the northwest corner of Parker Woods Drive and Lakewood Drive.

Planting Days

Park-Er-Woods:
Saturday, May 3rd, 2025
Tuesday, May 6th, 2025

All planting days are 10:30 am to 5:30 pm.

Volunteers should be available for at least 1 two-hour block between 10:30 am to 5:30 pm.

Volunteers are encouraged to bring soil knives or hand trowels, a pair of gloves, and comfortable working shoes that you don't mind getting dirty.

Free volunteer t-shirt available on the day(s) of the event while supplies last.



To sign up scan the QR code
or bit.ly/Volunteer4Planting

Project Partners



This flyer was prepared using United States Environmental Protection Agency funds under Section 319 of the Clean Water Act distributed through the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency. The findings and recommendations contained herein are not necessarily those of the funding agencies.

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