

Sandburg Rain Garden

A Boardwalk Over Sustainability

Many of you may have been wondering about the walk-way and plants that have been added to the east side of the Sandburg parking structure. This is a storm water management garden. It's purpose is to alleviate unnecessary storm water runoff and to help solve a flooding problem that has been present since the construction of the Hall itself. Did you know that in July of 2010 when Milwaukee got hit with a big flash flood the campus had an estimated one million dollars in piping and building damage? These rain gardens are put into

place to help lessen these types of incidents, help educate the community on sustainability, and to show how beautiful sustainability can be. The project was developed by student volunteers from the Emerging Green Builders and Engineers Without Borders at UWM. It involves bioswales, landscape elements designed to remove silt and pollution from surface runoff water, and a 5,000 gallon storm water collection cistern. The cistern has a hand pump so the harvested runoff can be used to water the communal garden plots on the east side of the garden. All of the plants planted in the bioswales are native Wisconsin grasses, sedges, and forbes. There will be signs posted around the garden to help educate anyone in the area, so you can read more about it once they are posted. Keep a watchful eye out this spring to watch it grow and flourish!

“With the addition of a boardwalk, students will pass over the newly implemented Green Infrastructure and instead of becoming muddied will cross through a beautiful native wetland.”

-UWM Office of Sustainability



Community Garden Plots on Campus

Are you interested in a community garden? There are plots on campus that you can purchase either yourself or with a group. The current community plots are located on the south lawn of the physics building, on the south side of Sandburg's east tower and within the Downer Woods Portal, the Alumni House, and the northeast corner of Klotsche. The UWM Food and Garden Club run the plots. They meet once a month for planning, growing tips, and lessons on different produce. Please contact Kate Nelson in the Sustainability Office for more information at knelson6@uwm.edu.

Also, check out the UWM Spotlight on Excellence regarding the gardens:

https://www.youtube.com/v/kLwUcrJRBH0?version=3&f=playlists&app=youtube_gdata



MILWAUKEE AREA SUSTAINABILITY EVENTS

Farmers' Markets

Most Farmers' Markets are open May-October, but here a couple to check out in the winter months.



- **MKE County Winter Farmers' Market**
 - ⇒ Located at the Mitchell Park Horticultural Conservatory "The Domes"
 - ⇒ Open Saturdays 9am—1pm Nov thru March. Free Parking and Indoor shopping
 - ⇒ More info at: www.mcwfm.org
- **MKE Public Market**
 - ⇒ Located Downtown Milwaukee on Water Street.
 - ⇒ Open Mon thru Fri 10am-8pm. Sat 8am-6pm. Sun 10am-6pm.
 - ⇒ More info at: www.milwaukeepublicmarket.org

Great Lakes Environmental Film Festival



The first annual Great Lakes Environmental Film Festival will be hosted this year here in Milwaukee. Hosted by the Diederich College of Communication at Marquette University, this festival of films will include documentaries, adventure films, and fiction films, all with environmental themes to help raise awareness of sustainability, and to challenge audiences to take action for their environment. Located at Marquette University, the festival will run May 1st thru the 3rd. If you would like to know more, go to www.gleff.org.

SPRING GREEN TIPS

Common early spring produce include: Peas, spinach, lettuce, leeks, melons, onions, and peppers. It's best to plant some of these indoors first to help the seeds gather their roots so they will be ready for the spring soil. See your local garden center on advice on when to start these and how. Remember, the UWM Food and Garden Club is another great resource!!



How Do You Start Compost?

Starting your own compost heap is both easy and rewarding. There are 3 essential elements that go into a good compost. Number 1 is a good container. Your container will need to be well-ventilated, and you will need to be able to easily turn and rotate your compost to help keep oxygen mixing into the decaying materials. Cage from a wire fence is good, or even just some cleverly repurposed wooden crates would work well. You can go to your local garden center for kits, or some center's have free compost bins to give out. You have the option to purchase compost tumblers, which makes it easy to turn, and mix up your compost. Whichever you get, a great compost bin will retain heat and moisture, allowing for quick results. The number 2 essential element is your mix. A low-maintenance pile has a good balance of both brown and green plant matter, plus the moisture to keep the bacteria happy. Add in some shovelfuls of rich garden soil and you got yourself a nice mix! Brown materials consist of things like newspapers, dry leaves, and mulch. Green materials consist of kitchen waste (vegetable scraps, egg shells, coffee grounds) and garden waste (grass clippings). Just try and avoid seeded weeds, and no meat fats or dairy can be added to the mix. Pet feces are also a no-no! The last essential element is upkeep. A compost heap doesn't take a lot of work, but upkeep can make it or break it. Be sure to keep adding ingredients to keep your bacteria happy and thriving. Turn the pile around once or twice a week to keep your mix blended, and so oxygen is transmitted throughout the pile. Keep your pile damp. Too little moisture will slow down decomposition, but too much will leave you with a slimy mess. After a couple of months, you should see a dark, crumbly soil that smells like fresh dirt. Sprinkled around your garden, the compost will help give your garden a boost and keep your plants healthy!



Some helpful hints and tips on compost: www.planetnatural.com/composting-101

Service Your Motors!



A poorly tuned engine can use up to 50% more fuel and produces up to 50% more emissions than a properly running vehicle. Use the warm Spring season to get your car tuned up and checked out. A clogged air filter can increase fuel consumption by 10%, while old oil causes your engine to work harder, also increasing fuel consumption. The same goes for your boats! Keep our water ways cleaner by keeping up with your boat maintenance.

If you're changing your oil at home, don't forget to properly recycle your old oil. Many gas stations and auto centers will take it off of your hands for free. Just call ahead to be sure!