

February 26, 2009

**NEWS RELEASE**

Contact: Mike Isensee, Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District  
651-480-7777



**“Blue Thumb – Planting for Clean Water Workshops”**

An introduction to creating beautiful gardens that help keep water clean

Everyone is catching on! Creating landscaped areas with native plants or gardens that soak up rainwater is the secret to leisurely living in great looking yards. Attend a Blue Thumb workshop to see how others in your city have created great looking landscaped areas that benefit local lakes, rivers, and wetlands.

Attend a free workshop from 6:15 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Dakota Lodge in Thompson Park, West St Paul, on March 11th. Pre-registration is required. Go to [www.dakotacountyswcd.org](http://www.dakotacountyswcd.org) or call Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation district at 651-480-7777 to register.

After seeing dozens of affordable designs that have transformed bland urban landscapes to beautiful retreats, participants can attend a Blue Thumb design workshop where you can receive help to create a design for your yard.

Winner of the 2008 Governor’s MNGREAT Award, Blue Thumb is a state wide collaborative program. In Dakota County, it is a collaboration of four watershed management organizations, twelve cities, Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District and Dakota County Water Resources Office.

For more information about Blue Thumb- Planting for Clean Water go to [www.bluethumb.org](http://www.bluethumb.org) to learn the “how to’s” of native gardens, raingardens and shoreline stabilization using plants, plus find out where to purchase the plants at participating retailers.

- END -