



## THE KINNICKINNIC RIVER LAND TRUST

*WORKING WITH THE COMMUNITY TO PROTECT THE NATURAL RESOURCES AND SCENIC BEAUTY OF THE KINNICKINNIC RIVER WATERSHED*

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**PRESS RELEASE  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
September 11, 2008  
Contact: Margaret Smith  
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### River Falls Area Schools Use Rain Gardens to Protect Water Quality Principals Receive Rain Garden Signs from KRLT

The Kinnickinnic River Land Trust (KRLT) distributed weatherproof rain garden signs to area principals for use in each school's rain gardens. The signs describe the function and benefits of rain gardens in cooling and purifying storm water and preventing storm water from directly entering storm drains. The area school rain gardens protect the Kinnickinnic River by preventing dirty and often heated water from entering the Kinni. The rain gardens also provide an educational laboratory for students across a variety of disciplines.

Over 700 River Falls' students, 15 teachers and 32 volunteers were involved in the creation of rain gardens at 7 schools, including St. Bridget Parish School, Heartland Montessori School, Renaissance Academy, Greenwood Elementary, Rocky Branch Elementary, Westside Elementary, and Meyer Middle schools. "These efforts not only educate future generations about how they can take personal responsibility to help improve the environment, but also actually assist in keeping the Kinnickinnic River a cold, clear and clean trout stream", said Margaret Smith, Communications and Membership Manager for KRLT.

The rain garden signs were provided by University of Wisconsin-Extension Lower Chippewa Basin educators Darren Lochner and Dan Zerr. A grant for the school-wide rain garden project was provided to the Kinnickinnic River Land Trust by the Wisconsin Environmental Education Board, and in 2007 brochures about the project were sent to all the school districts in Wisconsin.



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The KRLT is a non-profit 501 (c)3 organization whose mission is to work with the community to protect the natural resources and scenic beauty of the Kinnickinnic River watershed. For more information about rain gardens or KRLT, call 425-5738, or visit [www.kinniriver.org](http://www.kinniriver.org).



**Caption:**

Area school principals receive rain garden signs from KRLT. Pictured at St. Bridget Parish School rain gardens are (l-r) Nelson French (KRLT), Michael Ballard (Westside Elementary), Nate Schurman (Greenwood Elementary), Sue Steckbauer (St. Bridget Parish School), Mike Johnson (Meyer Middle), Charles Eaton (Rocky Branch Elementary), Eric Forward (KRLT), Marc Heintzman (Heartland Montessori School teacher), and Linda Berg (Renaissance Academy).