

Arboretum Hosts Clean Water Summit on Green Infrastructure's Costs, Benefits

Chanhassen, MN (Aug. 4, 2014) – Water is a valuable and vulnerable, life-sustaining natural resource that all too often just goes needlessly down the drain. The Minnesota Landscape Arboretum's 2014 Clean Water Summit will attempt to address this issue by focusing on the costs and benefits of incorporating green infrastructure features in development projects, including the economic, social and ecological factors.

The "Green Infrastructure for Clean Water" summit takes place Thursday, Sept. 11, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the MacMillan Auditorium of the Arboretum's Oswald Visitor Center.

Summit presenters include Charles Fishman, author of "The Big Thirst: The Secret Life and Turbulent Future of Water," and Dr. Steven Polasky, U of M professor of ecological/environmental economics, who will speak on "Emerging Economics of Natural Capital and Ecosystem Service."

Also speaking are Tom Brownlow, retired city administrator of Charles City, Iowa ("Community Change Through Green Infrastructure"); and Matt Metzger of Barr Engineering ("Weighing the Triple Bottom Line: Tools to Demonstrate the Value of Green Infrastructure in Your Community").

The conference also will include case studies shared by developers, land-owners, designers and others with green infrastructure experience.

The Clean Water Summit is geared for people from the public and private sectors who are interested in learning not only why but how they can promote and implement green infrastructure into their own work. These include engineers, public agency staff, stormwater managers, policymakers, landscape architects, educators and the general public.

The conference is presented by the Arboretum, in collaboration with Minnehaha Creek Watershed District, with support from University of Minnesota Extension. Fee is \$60 for Arboretum members and conference affiliates, and \$70 for general admission (includes lunch). Register at www.arboretum.umn.edu/2014CleanWaterSummit.aspx or call 612-301-1210.

The Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, the largest public garden in the Upper Midwest and a premier northern arboretum, is part of the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences at the University of Minnesota a community and national resource for horticultural and environmental information, research, and public education. Open 363 days a year, it is located 9 miles west of I-494 on Hwy 5 in Chanhassen. -30-