



Holton Family Prairie Wetland Project

DEER CREEK WATERSHED ALLIANCE

Lotsie and Rick Holton wanted to better manage stormwater and provide wildlife habitat at their home in Ladue, Missouri. That is why, when the house next door went on the market in 2020, the Holton Family purchased the property. Working with the Missouri Botanical Garden's Deer Creek Watershed Alliance Rainscaping Cost-Share Program, they installed a prairie wetland. Today, this functional landscape in the middle of a residential neighborhood acts as a sponge that soaks up runoff while supporting a diversity of Missouri native flora and fauna.

The Deer Creek Watershed Alliance (DCWA) started in 2008 when a small but committed team of citizen volunteers came together to make a positive difference for local creeks. Rick Holton was part of this original group and has championed these efforts for over 15 years as Chairman of the DCWA Steering Committee. The DCWA is now a partnership consisting of engaged residents as well as representatives from over 40 agencies, organizations, and municipalities, including the City of Ladue. Many stakeholders collaborate to drive our work.

A keystone project of the DCWA is the Rainscaping Cost-Share Program, which supports landowners who install ecological landscaping to improve water quality and reduce erosion. In addition to the Holton Family Prairie Wetland, over 500 rainscaping projects have been installed in the Deer Creek Watershed to date.

Like the now-mature plants in the Holton Family Prairie Wetland, native plants establish slowly, over the course of three years. This project was seeded in December 2021 by Native Landscape Solutions. Today, Compass Native Landscapes provides regular stewardship critical to maintaining function and aesthetic appeal.

While most landowners cannot plant prairies at home, there are other landscaping features that can help achieve similar goals on a smaller scale. Rainscaping consists of functional native plantings such as rain gardens, bioswales, lawn alternatives, and more, that slow down and soak up rainwater where it falls. Learn more about how rainscaping might work for your property by visiting www.mobot.org/rainscaping.

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