

## Holton Family Prairie Wetland Project

Lotsie and Rick Holton acquired this property adjacent to their home in Ladue in 2020 to install a prairie wetland project as part of the Missouri Botanical Garden's Deer Creek Watershed Alliance Rainscaping Cost-Share Program. The purpose of this program is to improve water quality and benefit aquatic life in Deer Creek and its tributaries by installing diverse landscapes that help manage stormwater by capturing rain where it falls, instead of allowing water to run off-site which often leads to issues for downhill neighbors.

The Deer Creek Watershed Alliance started in 2008 with a small, but ever committed team of citizen volunteers who wanted to make a difference in their community and in their creeks. Rick Holton was among these founding citizens and has continued to lead and support this effort as Chairman of the Deer Creek Watershed Alliance Steering Committee for over 15 years. Over 40 agencies, organizations, and municipalities, including City of Ladue, now form this partnership in addition to the three committees that actively drive the work of the Deer Creek Watershed Alliance. Together we have now installed over 500 rainscaping projects in the Deer Creek Watershed in addition to this one!



A prairie takes time to establish, so please be patient! A prairie begins by sleeping, then it creeps, then it leaps like in this photo by Scott Woodbury with Cacialia Design of the now established Holton Family Prairie.

This rainscaping prairie wetland project was seeded in December of 2021 by Native Landscape Solutions. As maintenance is a key component of this and any landscaped area, Compass Native Landscapes has been contracted to complete the stewardship and any additional planting and seeding of this project. In addition, landscape architecture design services have been provided for the placement of trees around the perimeter of the project.

Rainscaping practices can include other types of features such as rain gardens, bioswales, lawn alternatives, trees and shrubs, etc. to slow down, soak up and reuse rainwater before it carries pollutants to a local stream; then onto the Mississippi River, and then, all the way down to the Gulf of Mexico! Rainscaping can also be employed to solve a drainage problem, increase aesthetic appeal, improve property values, and/or attract birds and butterflies, in addition to many other benefits. To learn more, visit [mobot.org/rainscaping](http://mobot.org/rainscaping) and [deercreekalliance.org/cost-share](http://deercreekalliance.org/cost-share).

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