



Winburn Middle School Rain Garden Project Lexington, KY September 2022 - January 2023

Any property in an urban environment is going to receive stormwater, and every property should be designed to safely convey that stormwater away without undue damage to the landscape or infrastructure. Sometimes, as was the case at Winburn, older properties were not built to current standards. Instead of looking at this as a deficit, leaders in the Sustainability program within Fayette County Public Schools saw this situation as an opportunity for education.

Partnering with EcoGro, a conceptual design and proposal was developed to install a rain garden basin adjacent to the school's parking lot. This would serve to slow, store and filter runoff from the parking lot before it leaves the property. Because the school is located in the Cane Run watershed (a designated water supply protection area), efforts made to keep the water clean and recharge supplies will help protect the city of Georgetown's water supply. This compelling project was awarded funding in part by the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government's Water Quality Management Fee and the Stormwater Quality Projects Incentive Grant Program.

Students can directly observe the water cycle in action. The basin and planting layout were designed by EcoGro's own ISA-certified arborist, Russ Turpin. Despite the visual simplicity of the rain garden basin, secrets lie beneath its' surface. Because the surrounding soil was heavy clay fill, we installed a drainage system under the rain garden with 4" perforated pipe surrounded by #9 gravel. With amended soils added, it is performing well.

Lastly, though perhaps most visually striking, several trees were planted in and around the basin, and a large "W" pattern was planted just downhill from the basin. Now that's school spirit! These trees will help improve the school greenspace, attract native wildlife, provide cooling shade and serve as an outdoor learning area. EcoGro installed soil infiltration ports and provided materials and lesson plans for teachers to use this outdoor facility.



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