

clean air & native plants

You know rain gardens help water quality, but did you know native landscaping also helps clear the air?

An estimated 9 percent of Kansas City's VOC pollution comes from lawn and garden equipment.

Mowers, weed trimmers and other gas-powered equipment emit both volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and nitrogen oxides (NOx) — the pollutants that form ground-level ozone. Emissions also include carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide,

sulfur dioxide and air toxics such as benzene. Gasoline spilled while refueling lawn and garden equipment also contributes a substantial amount of VOC pollution.



Lawn and garden power equipment is a major source of air pollution.

Running a lawnmower for one hour emits the same amount of pollution as driving a car 340 miles.

Americans spill 17 million gallons of gasoline each year refueling small engines such as lawn and garden equipment.

Rain gardens can actually decrease the number of mosquitoes in your area. They are designed to dry out quickly, which kills mosquito eggs and larvae.

Maintaining a native landscape costs only one-third as much as maintaining turf grass.

What can you do? Go Native!

Plant a rain garden to reduce the area that requires mowing.

Less lawn area means less mowing, and less mowing means less emissions.

Seed your lawn with native grasses that require less frequent mowing.

Since natives like buffalo grass reach only six inches in height and grow slowly, you can mow once a month for a manicured look, or not mow at all for a more natural look.

Plant native plants to remove more carbon dioxide from the air.

All plants remove carbon dioxide from the air and store the carbon. Because of their deep root systems, native plants store much more carbon than non-native species. Carbon dioxide is a major contributor to global greenhouse warming.

Place trees to shade your home in the summer and provide a windbreak in the winter.

This will reduce energy consumption, resulting in lower costs for you and decreased power generation needs. Power generation is a large contributor of NOx in the Kansas City region.

Use fewer chemicals.

Native plants typically do not require pesticide, herbicide or fertilizer after they have been established because they are adapted to the soil in this area. Pesticides and herbicides can contain VOCs, and all three contain additional chemicals that can be dangerous to humans, pets and the environment.



Learn more about plants native to our area at www.marc.org/water or www.rainkc.com

Check the daily SkyCast at www.marc.org/airq

GOOD

MODERATE

ORANGE ALERT

RED ALERT



Clear Thinking. Clear Air.