



# Our Neighborhoods

Citizens, government and industry working to promote public understanding and involvement in chemical risk management

## Rain Gardens: A New Clean Water Plan for Homes and Businesses

One of the primary issues facing the Cincinnati metropolitan area is stormwater runoff. The 10,000 Rain Gardens is a recent initiative that many communities are employing to encourage voluntary action by citizens and corporations in reducing stormwater runoff into streams and sewer systems. Stormwater runoff carries debris and fertilizer that ultimately end up in the natural water system. When too much debris and fertilizer makes its way to rivers



*A rain garden in action*

ter within a day, rain gardens are mosquito death traps, as mosquito eggs need more than 48 hours to grow into larvae.

Native plants are drought-resistant and attract butterflies and birds. These rain gardens provide natural solutions to wet weather problems, such as floods, sewer backups and dangerous pollution of streams and rivers. Government studies show that up to 70 percent of the pollution in streams, rivers and lakes is carried by stormwater that runs off of roofs and roadways. During heavy storms, stormwater can overflow the City's combined sewer systems.



*Stormwater Runoff into a local stream*

and lakes, it first covers the bottom with a blanket of sediment smothering the insects and fish eggs, destroying the habitat of many animals. Additionally, streams impacted by runoff change dramatically in depth and force, causing an adaptive hardship to animals as well as a danger to the surrounding public areas.

Poor water quality effects our quality of life, our sense of who we are and where we live, our community gathering places and our enjoyment of the local resources.

What can we do? Plant a rain garden. A rain garden is a 6-inch deep, shallow bowl that is planted with native prairie plants that are accustomed to the area's soil conditions and can absorb rain water through deep root systems. The gardens capture runoff from roofs and roads during frequent storms, cleaning out pollutants as it percolates back into the ground through the roots. Designed to process wa-



*Community Involvement*

Kansas City is one of the first major cities in the United States to launch a city-wide 10,000 Rain Gardens initiative with training workshops and reference materials. For more information on the location, design and construction of rain gardens, Kansas City has established an information website at [www.rainkc.com](http://www.rainkc.com).

## Company Contacts

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Tim Boll/Tim Brogan (513) 941-4100

Cognis Corp., Winton Place  
Mike Groh (513) 482-2425

DuPont Specialty Chemicals, North Bend  
Tom Burke (513) 941-4121, x12

EMD Chemicals, Norwood  
Rob Highley (513) 587-5186

Environmental Enterprises, Inc., Cincinnati  
Greg Elpers (513) 772-2818 ext 8955

Grt. Cincinnati Water Works (California)  
Bill Phelps (513) 591-7971

JM Smucker Co., St. Bernard  
Jim Acres 482-8240

LANXESS Corporation, Addyston  
Duane Day (513) 467-2217

Metropolitan Sewer Dist., Lwr Price Hill  
Mike Heitz (513) 244-5137

Nease Corporation, Cincinnati  
Carl Deskins (513) 738-1255 ext 114

Pilot Chemical, Lockland/Middletown  
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Dennis Callison (513) 424-9700 x224 (MT)

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Jack Dison (513) 627-4567 (Spring Grove Ave.)  
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Bob Harper (513) 945-4805 (Winton Woods)

Queen City Terminals, Columb. - Tusculum  
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Sanitation Dist. No. 1, Ft. Wright, KY  
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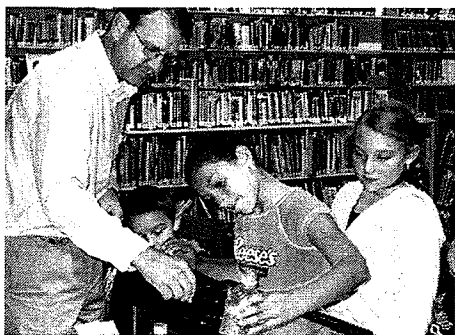
Shepherd Chemical, Norwood  
Rob Paxton (513) 458-6817

Please call these Alliance industry contacts if you have any questions about chemicals in your neighborhood.

# LANXESS Celebrates National Chemistry Week

The American Chemical Society sponsored its annual National Chemistry Week from October 22 – 28. This community-based program unites American Chemical Society, businesses, schools, and individuals in communicating the importance of chemistry to our daily quality of life. The celebration included a national poster contest focused on science in home safety and an invention contests using chemical principles to develop a new green building material or improve an existing one for a home for students in grades K – 12.

As part of their community involvement employees from the LANXESS Corporation's Addyston plant participated in events held at the Walnut Hills and Cleves Libraries. In all about 25 kids participated in the activities that included making "Cartesian divers", testing the strength of pasta "plywood" and investigating different materials for insulation.



Duane Day of LANXESS Corporation works with students at the Cleves Library

## Alliance 2006 Steering Committee

Chair: Mike Groh, Cognis Corporation  
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Citizen Representative: John Loper  
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Treasurer: Bob Sharkey, Quest Diagnostics

*If you are interested in joining the ACS or attending a meeting, please call us at (513) 612-3074*

***Our Neighborhoods*** is a publication of the Alliance for Chemical Safety (ACS), a Greater Cincinnati non-profit organization dedicated to promoting chemical safety. The ACS sponsors monthly public meetings on the third Wednesday of each month. Please visit our web site at [www.acs-online.org](http://www.acs-online.org) or call us at (513) 612-3074 for meeting locations and times.

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