

Fraser Salmon & Watersheds Program



2010/11 FINAL REPORT

FSWP File Number	07350-35/FSWP 10 D1 EE
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* Please use the FSWP File Number provided in previous FSWP project correspondence.

1. Project Information

1.1. Project Title

Rain Gardeners Classroom Education & Outreach Pilot Program

1.2. Proponent's Legal Name

Corporation of Delta

1.3. Project Location

Delta

1.4. Contact for this report

Name: Erin Riddell	Phone: 604-946-2382	Email: eriddell@corp.delta.bc.ca
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1.5 Funding Amount

Original Approved Grant Amount:	Total FSWP Expenditures:	Final Invoice Amount:	Final Non-FSWP leveraging, including cash and in-kind:
\$ 6050.00	\$ 4840.00	\$1210.00	

2. Project Summary

Please provide a single paragraph describing your project, its objectives, and the results. As this summary may be used in program communications, clearly state the issue(s) that were addressed and avoid overly technical descriptions. Maximum 300 words.

The Rain Gardeners program compliments Delta Engineering's Rain Garden Program for elementary schools. Building on the success of the Cougar Creek Elementary School Rain Garden Project, the Office of Climate Action & Environment (CAE) is developing the Rain Gardener program to ensure the long term viability of rain gardens at other schools through the delivery of in-classroom education modules that will raise participants' awareness of their connection to the watershed. This project developed the Rain Gardener Classroom Education & Outreach Program. The project will ensure the long term viability of rain gardens installed at schools through the delivery of in-classroom education modules that will raise participants' awareness of their connection to the watershed. Each year a Gardeners Classroom will be responsible for the maintenance of the garden and will receive the education program. Funding was used for curriculum and presentation creation and development. A maintenance manual and gardening kit was also created for the garden.

3. Final Project Results and Effectiveness

1. Rain Gardeners Program Curriculum Package	A curriculum package with 17 activity modules was created.
2. Rain Gardeners Program Environmental Presentations	Four seasonal stand alone curriculum modules in the form of news letters were created.
3.	Garden Maintenance Manuals created for each garden.
4.	Rain garden maintenance kit created for each garden.

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The program has been effective in achieved the project objectives. The main objectives of this program were to create the curriculum and presentation packages which have been done. Associated garden maintenance manuals and kits were also created and given to the rain gardeners classrooms. The final objective was to ensure the long term maintenance of the garden. This objective will have to be tested over time. As the project continues, feedback from the users (teachers and students) will be incorporated into the program as needed. The program is intended to be a standard product that can be distributed to all users, however, Delta will have to work with the teachers on personalizing components as needed as each teacher will implement the program differently based on class size, garden size, and garden maintenance requirements. As the teachers and classroom use the curriculum and maintenance kits their feedback on the applicability and usability of the program will help develop the final product from the pilot program.

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Engagement of First Nations. Please specify who, and in what capacity.	
Active partnerships with one or more organizations.	The Cougar Creek Streamkeepers is involved with the garden installation, planning, and mentoring of current teachers doing the

	maintenance as required and time permits.
Engagement and participation of diverse and under-represented groups.	
Relationship building, as a foundation for sustainable, enduring activities.	
Capacity building, including mentorship models, leadership training and skills development.	Students who have been involved with the initial rain gardens have moved into high school and have started environmental groups and are active in local environmental stewardship activities, including the installation of a rain garden at the high school.
Recognition and support of champions and their initiatives.	
Opportunities to influence policy and decision making,	Presentations on the pilot program have been made to the Corporation of Delta Environmental Advisory (EAC) Committee and Delta Council School Board Liaison Committee. The project was well received by both committees and recommendations to promote the program at community events were made by the EAC.

This project will engage students on a yearly basis about watersheds and their relationship to it. By facilitating continued learning and maintenance of the garden it will allow for sustained stewardship and awareness to be generated about the rain garden and local watershed over many years. Delta Engineering plans on installing 1-2 rain gardens per year at local elementary schools. There are 24 elementary schools within Delta. With the continued use of the curriculum package and program as well as ongoing maintenance of the garden, there will ongoing benefits. The immediate next steps are to get feedback from the current users and update the curriculum and garden maintenance kits over the next two years as teachers work through the materials. Until they are put into practice it is difficult to assess changes needed and measure complete success of the implementation of the program.

1. Discussions with user groups on development and implementation of classroom programs are helpful. Teachers will all implement the program differently and learning what works for each of them will help to develop a standard model that can be distributed to meet the most needs possible.
2. Creating appropriate useful programs is important to for easy integration into the classroom setting. Making all materials as user friendly as possible will help the success of a program. If the program is to onerous, the teachers will not put it into use.
3. For the development of programs working one on one with a core pilot group would provide useful. Once finalized with the representative core pilot group, then the tested program can be distributed to other participants.

4. Outreach and Communications

Presentations on the pilot program have been made to the Corporation of Delta Environmental Advisory (EAC) Committee and Delta Council School Board Liaison Committee. The project was well received by both committees and recommendations to promote the program at community events were made by the EAC. Informative posters have been created and displayed at town hall meetings and community events. A presentation was made at the Delta School Board District Day by the Cougar Creek Streamkeepers on their involvement with the planting and installation of the Annieville Rain Garden with students from the sponsor classroom. All power points can be found in the attached deliverables CD. A press release will be sent out to highlight the completion of the pilot program in April 2011.