

**Report to the Washtenaw County
Water Resources Commissioner's Office**

For the Grant Titled:

**Thurston Nature Center Oak/Hickory Woods
Erosion Control and Rain Garden**

Submitted by Jim Vallem

Thurston Nature Center Steward and Master Rain Gardener

Background:

Thurston Nature Center (TNC) applied for and received a grant for \$533 to build a rain garden and add additional vegetation to stop erosion affecting Thurston Pond, a source for Miller’s Creek and the Huron River.

Results:

A rain garden was built near the bottom of a slope to catch runoff from rain water and sump pumps from houses at the top of the hill. The rain garden was laid out according to the design in Figure 1. After digging, the area soon filled in with water, Figure 2, showing the need for this project. Figure 3 shows the garden after planting. (Because the bluebells are spring ephemerals, they were already dormant when planted and do not appear in the photo; but per the plan, they are located between the ferns. As the bluebells go dormant by late spring, the ferns will be emerging.)

In addition, seeds were purchased, to be sowed “upstream” from the rain garden, where the ground was eroded. These were sowed this fall.

An additional part of the plan was to place nine spicebushes just uphill from the rain garden, to capture any leaves flowing down toward the garden. These were not available at the time of the work, nor later in the year when I checked again. Per direction from the Commissioner’s office, I have pre-ordered and paid for nine 1-gallon pots of spicebush to be obtained and planted in spring 2019.

Costs:

Receipts are attached with this report submission, for the following:

32	2” pots of Marsh Marigold	\$34.60 *
16	2” pots of Virginia Bluebells	\$36.80
16	2” pots of Lizard’s Tail	\$36.80
16	2” pots of Palm Sedge	\$21.60
16	2” pots of Lady Fern	\$63.20
TOTAL		\$193.00

* Net; they subtracted a portion of the full tray cost due to the “less than our standard quality” of the plants (they looked fine to me!).

10 oz.	Riverbank Wild Rye	\$50.00
5 oz.	Bristly Cattail Sedge	\$75.00
4 oz.	Plains Oval Sedge	\$40.00
6 oz.	Silky Wild Rye	\$60.00
TOTAL w/ Shipping		\$236.25

9	1-Gallon Spicebush	\$98.55
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Total Cost: \$527.80.

Figure 1

**Thurston Nature Center Oak/
Hickory Woods Rain Garden #1**

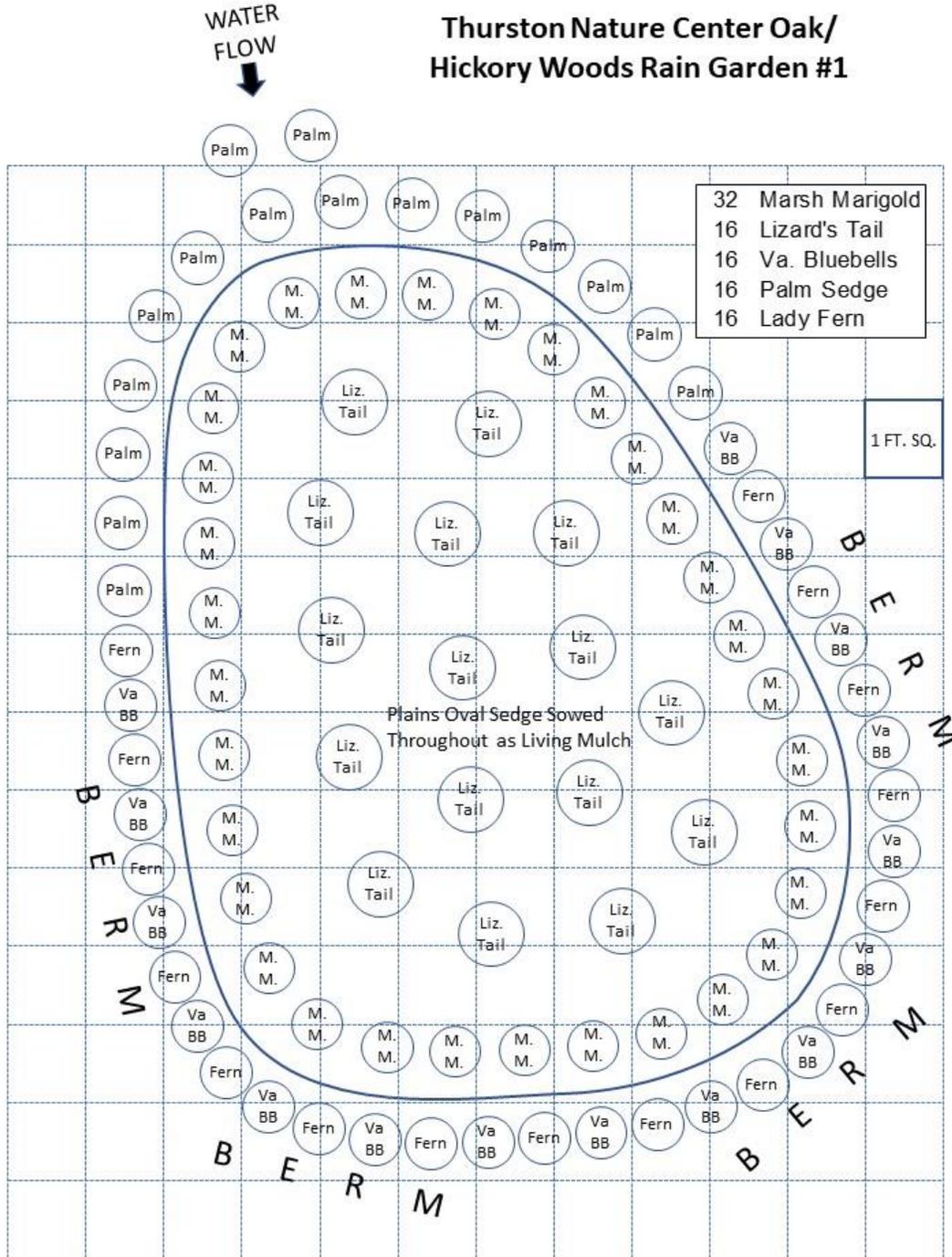


Figure 2



Figure 3

