

Native Plant Workshop Scheduled for November 17

Those who took a tour of the Alcoa Howmet native landscape site or who have simply admired the unique landscape, have the opportunity to learn how to plant their own native landscape at a workshop scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, November 17 at the White Lake Community Library, located at 3900 White Lake Drive in Whitehall.

Workshop participants will learn how to plant a native landscape and the basics of installing a rain garden. Information will be presented on site preparation, developing a design, choosing appropriate seeds and plants, and maintaining the new landscapes. According to Jeff Auch, executive director of the Muskegon Conservation District, which is coordinating the Alcoa Howmet project, "We have had great interest from area residents and businesses that want their own native landscape. Fall is a great time to begin planning for this. We'll provide all of the information needed to create a beautiful, low maintenance native landscape."

The native landscape project, which replaces four and a half acres of lawn at Alcoa Howmet's Plant 4 on Benston Road in Whitehall, was officially kicked off in 2008, and the new plantings became highly visible in July of this year. Several other native plantings are also underway at Alcoa Howmet plants in Whitehall and on public sites in the city of Whitehall. Amy Heisser, the company's director of human resources, is pleased that native landscapes are becoming more popular in the area. "We are delighted to have several of the first large-scale native landscapes in the White Lake area and we hope our success inspires creation of many more!"

There is no cost for the workshop. RSVPs are suggested, but not required. To RSVP or for more information, call (231) 981-0016 or (231) 773-0008.