



**DISCIPLES**  
Home Missions

*MENTOR: JENNIFER  
WARMEN*

*JUSTICE CREATION FELLOW:  
SIMONE NELSON*



<https://www.cypresscreek.cc/>

# Community Need

*For my community project, I chose to focus on the long-term impacts of hurricanes that have greatly affected both my church and the surrounding neighborhoods. I designed a rain garden as a sustainable response to these challenges. A rain garden captures stormwater runoff and floodwater before it reaches the streets and pollutes local waterways, while also helping to reduce flooding. By being built on a slight incline, it slows and filters water naturally through soil and vegetation. In addition to managing stormwater, the garden enhances biodiversity by creating a habitat for pollinators such as bees and hummingbirds, which contributes to both environmental health and community resilience.*



# What is the solution

*After conducting research on sustainable solutions, I chose to focus on rain gardens. I felt this project was both an effective way to address the long-standing issue of flooding in our community and an accessible initiative that could engage local residents. My goal was to create a garden that not only managed stormwater but also fostered a deeper connection to the beauty and function of nature. When I shared the idea with my congregation, the response was enthusiastic—many people expressed excitement about being part of a project that felt personal and meaningful. I received thoughtful questions about its environmental and community benefits, along with helpful suggestions on plant selection, seasonal considerations, and maintenance. To move the project forward, I developed design plans, consulted with contractors, and coordinated with utility services to ensure safe digging. This process highlighted both the practical challenges and the collective commitment needed to bring the rain garden to life.*



# Collaborators and Partners.

*Every Sunday at church, I set up a table with informational pamphlets about my project and spoke with the congregation about its progress. I also engaged directly with community groups, including the men's group at my church and a women's group at a nearby community center. To maintain consistent communication, I created weekly sign-up spreadsheets for individuals who wanted project updates or were interested in volunteering. This strategy allowed me to track interest, organize volunteers, and ensure that everyone who wanted to be involved had a clear way to participate. Over time, these efforts built trust, strengthened community connections, and created a sense of shared ownership in the success of the rain garden project.*

**What is Green Chalice?**

Green Chalice, an office under Disciples Home Mission pursues serving God through caring for His creation. As a Justice Fellow my mission is to serve this community through faith.

**OUR MISSION**

My goal for this summer is to show our church and neighboring community the importance of the environment through faith. I hope to teach those of all ages how we can take simple steps to see a change in the world around us and how we live.

**OUR VISION**

I plan to introduce and build a sustainable Rain Garden on the church campus to resolve flooding. I also intend to involve groups of all ages, such as scouts and others, to learn about sustainability.



**Volunteer**

Cypress Creek Christian Church  
Spring, Texas 77379

**Get in Touch**

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**GREEN CHALICE CREATION FELLOWSHIP**



Bringing awareness to environmental justice through faith.

**how rain gardens can help the environment**



**1. STOP FLOODING OF PROPERTY**

I selected rain gardens for my project because of the flooding we have endured in the past as a community. Rain Gardens help solve draining in areas that would normally retain water, through soil and rocks.

**2. INCREASE BIODIVERSITY**

The rain gardens will also help create greater biodiversity and species such as butterflies and hummingbirds will be attracted to help pollinate

**3. CONTRIBUTES TO CLEAN WATER**

Stopping the run off of storm water and debris creates an opportunity for clean water flow to impact areas such as the Cypress Creek Bayou

**4. CONSERVING SOIL**

Rain gardens help stabilize soil by slowing the loss of soil erosion during a storm.

**FOR LESS THAN \$200 YOU CAN REDUCE FLOODING AND BUILD THE ENVIRONMENT**



# Impact and ripples

*Over the past two months, I was able to connect with both older and younger members of the congregation. With the older members, I focused on sharing information and having meaningful conversations about the connection between faith, the environment, and how we can nurture that relationship through stewardship of the earth. Meanwhile, the younger members of the community stepped up to take on the physical labor, helping to build the rain garden and contribute directly to improving our shared environment. This intergenerational collaboration demonstrated how different strengths within the community can come together to achieve a common goal..*



GREEN CHALICE ORG INTERNSHIP

## RAIN GARDEN VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

If you're game to help out,  
you get free food and drink!

JULY 19<sup>TH</sup>

9AM-12PM

CYPRESS CREEK CHRISTIAN  
CHURCH, 77379

We're looking for volunteers who can assist in  
the digging and planting of the Rain Garden.

# Spirit of God-Awe moments

*I experienced the presence of God most clearly during the dig day for the rain garden. After weeks of preparation and securing volunteer commitments, nearly everyone canceled at the last minute. At first, I felt discouraged and questioned whether the project would succeed. Yet, three close friends and my mentor arrived that morning and worked alongside me in the Texas heat to complete the garden. In that moment, I felt God's love so strongly, as He reminded me that even when my own plans fall apart, He always provides another way. The experience reinforced my belief that God works in miraculous ways and that His presence guides both our struggles and our victories.*



# Beloved community

*This fellowship has helped my community and congregation move closer to embodying the beloved community of God by creating a shared space where people could come together with a common purpose. The rain garden is more than just an environmental project—it is a living symbol of stewardship, resilience, and cooperation that reflects God's call to care for creation. The project has sparked intergenerational connections and encouraged conversations about how faith and environmental justice intersect in meaningful ways. The garden itself will continue to benefit the community through flood prevention, improved water quality, and biodiversity, while also serving as a lasting reminder of God's presence in our work. Looking ahead, I see this ministry inspiring future sustainable practices and new initiatives that will deepen its spiritual and environmental impact.*

