



Manage Rainfall

Rainfall in urban areas generates runoff from roads, driveways, sidewalks, streets and lawns with compacted soils. This stormwater then flows into the street, down the storm drain, and through the storm sewer, eventually making its way to local streams and lakes. Along the way it picks up pollutants such as fertilizer, grass clippings, sediment, pet waste, oil, heavy metals, bacteria, and more. Untreated stormwater degrades water quality.

You can help prevent these pollutants from reaching storm drains and streams by incorporating Rainscaping practices into your landscape.

Be Aware of Your Hydrologic Footprint

Your hydrologic footprint is the amount of water that leaves your property when it rains. A typical small urban lot receives more than 200,000 gallons of rainwater each year. That's enough to fill 4,000 rain barrels. Ask a Rainscaper to help you reduce your hydrologic footprint.

Water that should infiltrate is oozing off compacted soil under the turf into the storm drain.



Downspouts emptying onto your driveway sends runoff to the stream and increases your hydrologic footprint.

Rainscaping Practices

The following help capture and infiltrate stormwater, reducing your properties hydrologic footprint.

Rain Gardens and Bioretention Cells

Install a rain garden or bioretention cell on your property and direct runoff to it. Both are depressional, garden-like features with amended soils.

A two-tiered rain garden.



Restore Soil Quality

Improve your lawn's infiltration of rainwater. The soil in new turf areas requires deep tillage followed by compost, seed or sod. Aerate existing lawns, then topdress with a thin layer of compost and grass seed.

Native Landscaping

Plant deep-rooted native flowers and grasses in your yard. Convert large areas of lawn to prairie. Consider native turf that requires minimal mowing, watering and fertilizing.

Rainwater Harvesting

Purchase a rain barrel to capture and reuse rainwater for watering and irrigation.



Rain barrel.

