

Practice	Benefit	
Water Harvesting	Reduces Water Treatment Needs	Reduces Stormwater Runoff
Permeable Pavement	Improves Water Quality	
Bioretention & Infiltration	Reduces Grey Infrastructure Needs	
Tree Planting	Reduces Flooding	
Green Roofs	Increases Available Water Supply	
	Increases Groundwater Recharge	
	Reduces Salt Use	
	Reduces Energy Use	
	Improves Air Quality	
	Reduces Atmospheric CO ₂	
	Reduces Urban Heat Island	
	Improves Aesthetics	Improves Community Livability
	Increases Recreational Opportunity	
	Reduces Noise Pollution	
	Improves Community Cohesion	
	Urban Agriculture	
	Improves Habitat	
	Cultivates Public Education Opportunities	

*From "The Value of Green Infrastructure" (2010) published by the Center for Neighborhood Technology and American Rivers.

☒ Yes
 ☐ Maybe
 ☐ No

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STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

DUPAGE COUNTY STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

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What is Green Infrastructure?

Green infrastructure consists of stormwater management practices designed to capture and hold stormwater runoff. It has become an increasingly popular and viable stormwater management strategy in recent years because of its cost-effectiveness in comparison to expansive flood mitigation initiatives. In addition to the economic benefits, green infrastructure can positively affect water quality, energy consumption, air quality, carbon reduction, property prices, recreation and other ecological and social benefits. With increased urbanization, green infrastructure provides communities the opportunity to control the impact development has had on stormwater runoff over the years, as well as adapt for future weather extremes.



What are some examples?

Green Roofs are rooftops that are partially or completely covered with vegetation. Instead of stormwater that runs off a traditional roof into storm sewer systems and waterways, a green roof holds the water until it is eventually evaporated from the soil or transpired by the plants.

Trees whether measured on a tree-by-tree basis or on a larger urban forest scale—have a multitude of benefits, including intercepting rainfall, increasing infiltration, diminishing the impact of raindrops with the canopy and reducing runoff through transpiration.

Bioorientation & Infiltration Practices come in a variety of forms, including rain gardens and bioswales. Both of these practices store and infiltrate stormwater, which helps to lessen flooding impacts and non-point source pollution in local waterways.

Permeable Pavement allows for the absorption and infiltration of rainwater and snow melt onsite. Permeable pavement reduces surface runoff volumes and rates by allowing stormwater to infiltrate the underlying soils to reduce flooding, erosion and the need for road salts in the winter.

Water Harvesting is the process of capturing and storing rainwater onsite for future use, such as for irrigation and sanitary water. Examples include downspout disconnections, rain barrels and cisterns to collect and store stormwater runoff.

Did you know?

- In DuPage County, a significant flood event has happened three times in the past five years.
- Flash flooding is common in urban areas where impervious surfaces increase rain and snowmelt runoff to the receiving stream.
- Nonpoint source pollution carried in stormwater runoff is the Nation's largest source of water quality problems.
- More than \$70 billion nationally in stormwater management investments will be required from municipalities to successfully control stormwater runoff and meet water quality and flood protection regulations.
- Green infrastructure supports healthier communities, delivering clean water and air. It also saves money, time and energy compared to conventional stormwater management practices by reducing the quantity and velocity of runoff.

