



Rainscaping Iowa trains and certifies landscape professionals in the design, construction and maintenance of sustainable stormwater management practices.

Certified Rainscapers understand the connection between sustainable landscapes and protecting our precious water resources.

If you need assistance getting started with any aspect of the many Rainscaping Practices a Certified Rainscaper is ready to help.



A rain garden is installed at the home of Bob Quinn, host of the 1040 WHO Radio "Big Show" in Des Moines. Quinn and WHO help promote the many benefits of rain gardens in Iowa.

THE IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
STATE REVOLVING FUND PROVIDES LOW-INTEREST LOANS FOR
THE DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION OF RAINSCAPING PRACTICES.

Visit: www.IOWASRF.COM/PROGRAM

Click: other water quality programs

Click: storm water program overview



Windsor Heights
the heart of it all

City of Windsor Heights
Public Works Department

515-645-6826

WindsorHeights.Org

RAINSCAPE IT!

Don't just landscape . . . Rainscape!

Windsor Heights

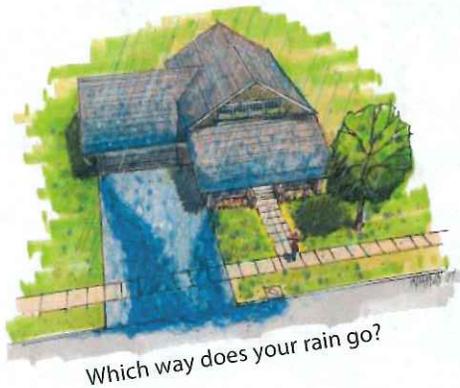


CREATE BEAUTIFUL LANDSCAPES
THAT PROTECT WATER QUALITY
AND REDUCE RUNOFF.

www.rainscapingiowa.org

Rainfall and Runoff

Rainfall in urban areas generates stormwater runoff from driveways, sidewalks, and lawns with compacted soils. Stormwater then flows into the street, down the storm drain, through the storm sewer, and eventually makes its way to the closest stream, river or lake. Along the way it picks up pollutants such as fertilizer, grass clippings, sediment, pet waste, oil, heavy metals, bacteria and more. Untreated, polluted stormwater degrades water quality.



Know your drainage footprint.

Your drainage footprint is the amount of water your property generates when it rains, as well as an estimate of how much of that rainfall becomes stormwater runoff. A typical urban lot receives over 200,000 gallons of rainwater each year (enough water to fill 4,000 rain barrels!) To determine your personal drainage footprint visit www.jcswcd.org/Audit. There you'll find a calculator that takes into account lot size, direction of downspouts, amount of concrete and amount of green space.



Downspouts connected to concrete send runoff directly to the closest stream, river or lake.



Compacted landscapes, seen below, act just like concrete, generating runoff rather than capturing and infiltrating rain.



Rainscaped Landscapes

Help prevent runoff and pollutants from reaching lowa streams, rivers and lakes by incorporating rainscaping practices into your existing landscape.

Bioretention Cells & Rain Gardens

Direct runoff into a rain garden or bioretention cell. Both are depressional, garden-like landscapes with compost amended soil.

Native Landscaping

Plant deep-rooted native flowers and grasses in your garden. Consider warm season native turf grass that requires minimal mowing, watering and fertilizing in place of high-maintenance bluegrass.

Permeable Pavers

Consider permeable pavers when installing or replacing driveways, sidewalks, patios and, on a bigger scale, parking spaces within large parking lots.

Rainwater Harvesting

Build or purchase a rain barrel to capture and reuse rainwater for washing up after gardening, watering grass, gardens and landscapes.

Soil Quality Restoration

Improve your yard's infiltration rate by aerating, then topdressing an existing lawn with a 1/4" to 1/2" layer of compost and grass seed. For new lawns, till at least 2 inches of compost into the existing topsoil.



Rain Garden



photo credit: Alex Schmidt Landscape Design LLC

Permeable Pavers



Soil Quality Restoration