

Structural Best Management Practices

The goals of these practices are to improve water quality issues caused by stormwater volume, thereby reducing contaminant and sediment run-off that degrade the habitat and flow to other water sources.



BIORETENTION BASINS or RAIN GARDENS

An excellent example of adding beauty with a purpose. Gardens are planted in small depressions to temporarily hold and soak in runoff that flows from parking lots and rooftops.

BENEFITS:

Decrease flashy flows, groundwater recharge, filtration, enhance site aesthetics, and provide habitat. Versatile with broad applicability.



VEGETATED SWALES

A shallow stormwater channel which is densely planted with a variety of grasses, shrubs, and/or trees designed to slow, filter, and infiltrate stormwater runoff.

BENEFITS:

Water quality, and decrease flashy flows with infiltration. Can replace curb and gutter for site drainage and provide significant cost savings.



WATER RUNOFF RETENTION AREAS

Lining water runoff retention areas with native shrubs, perennials, and flowers improves business curb appeal. Employees can be involved in designing and planting the garden space.

BENEFITS:

Decrease flashy flows, groundwater recharge, filtration, enhance site aesthetics, and provide habitat. Versatile with broad applicability.



RIPARIAN BUFFER RESTORATION

An area of land that exists between low, aquatic areas such as rivers, streams, lakes, and wetlands, and higher, dry upland areas such as forests, farms, cities, and suburbs.

BENEFITS:

Water quality, habitat, and aesthetic value. Low cost and little maintenance once buffer is established.



CAPTURE/REUSE RECEPTACLES (Rain Barrel, Cistern, etc.)

Structures designed to intercept and store runoff from rooftops allowing for its reuse.

BENEFITS:

Decrease flashy flows, provide supplemental water supply, and environmental benefits. Wide applicability, reduces potable water use and provides related cost savings.



PERVIOUS PAVEMENT WITH INFILTRATION

A combination of stormwater infiltration, storage, and structural pavement consisting of a permeable surface underdrain by a storage reservoir.

BENEFITS:

Decrease flashy flows with infiltration, groundwater recharge, and dual use for parking and stormwater management.



GREEN ROOF aka VEGETATED ROOF

Conventional rooftops that include a thin covering of vegetation allowing the roof to function more like a vegetated surface.

BENEFITS:

Decrease flashy flows, heating and cooling energy benefits, increased lifespan of roof, heat island reduction, and enhanced habitat value.



GREEN WALLS aka VEGETATED WALLS

Exterior green walls that include a thin covering of vegetation allowing the walls to function more like a vegetated surface.

BENEFITS:

Decrease flashy flows from rooftops, filtration, heating and cooling energy benefits, heat island reduction, and enhanced aesthetics.

DO YOU NEED ASSISTANCE WITH GRANT RESOURCES?

The SWMPC regularly researches available grants pertaining to environmental projects. Marcy Hamilton, SWMPC | 269-925-1137 x1525 | hamiltonm@swmpc.org

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