

# RAINSCAPE IT!

Don't just landscape . . . Rainscape!



CREATE BEAUTIFUL LANDSCAPES  
THAT PROTECT WATER QUALITY  
AND REDUCE RUNOFF.

[www.rainscapingiowa.org](http://www.rainscapingiowa.org)

## 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 rainscaping professional to help you reduce your hydrologic footprint.

*Reduce runoff from your property with rainscaping practices.*



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



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

## Rainscaping Practices

The following rainscaping practices help capture and infiltrate stormwater, reducing your property's runoff.

### 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.

### Restore Soil Quality

Improve your lawn's infiltration of rainwater. New turf areas require deep tillage followed by compost and 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 garden. Convert large lawns to prairie. Consider native turf that requires minimal mowing, watering and fertilizing.

### Permeable Pavements

Consider permeable pavement when installing or replacing parking lots, driveways, sidewalks or patios.

### Rainwater Harvesting

Purchase a rain barrel to promote the capture and reuse of rainwater for watering and irrigation purposes.



Rain garden



Rain barrel



## Let a Rainscaper guide you through your next landscaping project.

- Rainscapers understand the connection between beautiful landscapes and protecting our precious water resources.
- Rainscapers are knowledgeable on sustainable stormwater management practices and understand the hydrologic footprints of landscapes.
- Rainscapers are certified professionals trained in the design, installation and maintenance of rainscaping features.



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

**THE STATE REVOLVING FUND PROVIDES LOW-INTEREST LOANS FOR IMPLEMENTING RAINSCAPING PRACTICES.**

---