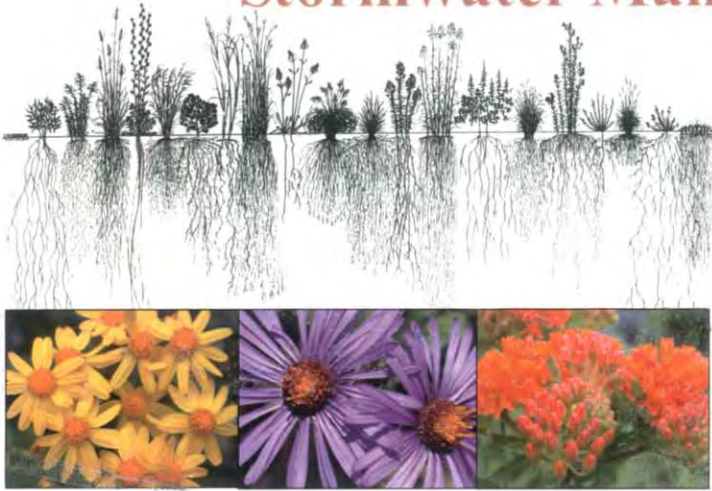


# Native Plants: The Deep Roots of Stormwater Management Success...



The plants native to our area have evolved to survive our climate without the need for excessive watering, fertilizers or pesticides. Their deep roots, ranging from five inches to 10-15 feet allow them to draw rain water deep into the ground instead of running off. They also attract a variety of butterflies and birds. Incorporate native flowers, grasses, trees and shrubs in your home or business landscaping.

## A COMMUNITY BENEFIT

### Clean Streams are a Sign of a Healthy Environment in DuPage County:

- ◆ A clean and healthy stream system is alive with fish, freshwater mussels, macroinvertebrates, plants, birds and other wildlife which provide endless opportunities for exploration and recreation.
- ◆ Reducing the amount of stormwater runoff that reaches the stream through practices like rain barrels, permeable surface pavement driveways and sidewalks, rain gardens and the use of deep-rooted native plants can reduce localized flooding.
- ◆ Healthy streams improve land value.
- ◆ Clean water is important for everyone!

## 5 Things You Can Do to Prevent Stormwater Runoff Pollution:

- ◆ Use least toxic pesticides, follow labels and learn how to prevent pest problems.
- ◆ Use de-icing salt sparingly or use sand as an alternative.
- ◆ Pick up after your pet.
- ◆ Have your septic tank pumped and inspected regularly.
- ◆ Never dump anything down a storm drain.



*Stormwater Best Management Practices to Make Your Home a Solution to Pollution*



**What is a Stormwater BMP?** BMP stands for Best Management Practice, which are things we do on the landscape that help keep stormwater clean, increase infiltration into the ground and reduce the amount of stormwater that reaches our local waterways. Though many BMPs are incorporated during the development process, there are many things that homeowners can do on their own properties.

By implementing BMPs, homeowners can keep common pollutants like pesticides, pet waste, grass clippings, and automotive fluids off the ground and out of stormwater. Adopt these best management practices and help protect DuPage County's lakes, streams, rivers and wetlands. Remember to share these practices with neighbors.



### Community BMPs

- ◆ Use native plant buffers around detention basins and along waterways.
- ◆ Adopt local ordinances that encourage native landscaping and the use of rain gardens.
- ◆ Implement regular street sweeping to keep pollutants out of storm drains.
- ◆ Work with developers to incorporate conservation designs that protect water quality.
- ◆ Provide Storm Drain Stenciling to increase awareness that storm drains empty directly into local streams.
- ◆ Offer educational workshops to residents.



### Partnership for Clean Water

DuPage County Stormwater Management Division has partnered with The Conservation Foundation to provide education and outreach opportunities for DuPage County residents.



### Home & Garden BMPs

- ◆ Utilize native flowers, trees and shrubs in your home landscaping to reduce need for excess watering, fertilizers and pesticides.
- ◆ When pesticide or fertilizer use is necessary choose least toxic or organic products and follow label directions carefully. Avoid application when heavy rain is forecasted. Do not apply near waterways or storm drains.
- ◆ Direct downspouts away from paved surfaces; consider building a rain garden or using a rain barrel to capture rain water and use as a resource.
- ◆ Keep water where it falls. Reduce possibility of sanitary sewer back-ups by disconnecting downspouts and basement sump pumps from sanitary sewer.
- ◆ Compost your yard waste, do not dump into or near streams, lakes or wetlands.
- ◆ Use a commercial car wash or wash your car on a lawn or other unpaved surface to minimize the amount of dirty, soapy water flowing into the storm drain and eventually into your local waterbody.
- ◆ Check your vehicle for leaks and spills. Make repairs as soon as possible. Clean up spilled fluids with an absorbent material like kitty litter or sand, and don't rinse the spills into a nearby storm drain. Remember to properly dispose of the absorbent material.



The Conservation Foundation's

### Conservation @ Home Program

recognizes homeowners who create and/or protect yards that are environmentally friendly and conserve water through the use of healthy home habits like native landscaping, rain gardens, composting and reduced pesticide use. The Conservation @ Home program will give you recognition for your efforts and guidance throughout the process.

Visit [www.theconservationfoundation.org](http://www.theconservationfoundation.org)  
or call (630) 553-0678 x302.

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