



GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE SELF-GUIDED TOUR

Let's explore stormwater management in Omaha!

BACKGROUND INFO:



As development expands, less natural landscapes such as prairies and forests remain. Water from storms can no longer soak into the ground due to hard surfaces (*impervious surfaces*), like rooftops, driveways and parking lots, and streets.

So where does all this water go now? This larger amount of water rushes to the nearest water body, causing the level to rise quickly, and may lead to erosion. As stormwater travels across these surfaces it gains speed and collects pollutants along the way, which further harms the streams, lakes and rivers.

Green infrastructure mimics nature by using plants and soil to allow water to slow down, spread out, and soak in close to where rain lands.

INSTRUCTIONS:



1. Click [here](#) to check out all of the locations for Green Infrastructure installations near you.
NOTE: click on the points on the map to learn more about each location
2. Pick one or many sites to visit.
3. Visit the site(s).
4. Look at the area for the different Green Infrastructure practices that have been used, and discuss the "Questions to Consider"
5. Take a picture or make a sketch of your findings along your tour and post it to social media. #worldowater
6. Complete the participation at [WorldOWater.org](#) to be entered for a chance to win prizes
7. Visit [OmahaStormwater.org](#) for lots more info on Green Infrastructure, including practices you can use at your home to allow water to

slow down, soak in, and spread out!



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Questions to Consider:



A rain barrel stores stormwater runoff for use later



This product acts as little speed bumps to slow the water down and allows grass to grow in-between so the water can also soak in

What feature(s) are being used to slow down water?

Do you see any rain barrels, rain gardens, etc...



Curb cuts allow water flowing along the street to go into these gardens instead of going to the storm sewer inlet - Mother Nature takes care of watering these gardens!

What feature(s) are being used to spread out water?



Permeable pavers are used for walking paths and parking spots -- water can soak in through the gaps between pavers

What feature(s) are being used to allow water to soak in ?



Planting grass and other vegetation in the path of stormwater flow helps the water to slow down, spread out and soak in



What pollutants does the system help to address?

What organisms (animals, plants, insects) do you see living in this ecosystem?



Make sure to look for the Informational signs - they are great resources for more details on each site



Did you find some plants you want to incorporate into your own landscape?



Visit OmahaPlants.org to review the best options to fit your landscape.

