

Hire a RAINSCAPER.

Rainscapers are certified professionals with a passion for creating beautiful landscapes that reduce runoff and improve water quality. Rainscapers have undergone specific training in the design, installation and maintenance of rainscapes.

Meet Iowa's Pioneering Rainscapers:



John Rathbun is a Landscape Designer for Forever Green Nursery and Landscaping in Coralville, Iowa. Forever Green owners Mike and Lucy Hershberger envisioned a new and emerging market for rain gardens and encouraged Rathbun to become a certified Rainscaper. Forever Green collaborated with the city to install a rain garden that manages runoff from the road their business is located on. The resulting rain garden now serves as a beautiful showcase for nursery customers. Forever Green conducts seminars on rain gardens to help promote landscapes for clean water.



Brad Beck is president of Beck Engineering, Inc., in Spirit Lake, Iowa. As the lead designer of one of the first and largest bioretention demonstration sites in Iowa, Beck designed a series of bioretention cells that manage runoff from four acres of asphalt parking lot. Previously, the parking lot runoff would have entered the storm sewer and discharged into West Okoboji lake. A number of projects have recently been installed in the lake's region in accordance with local code that requires infiltration-based practices to protect the water quality. After identifying an opportunity to expand his business by offering green design services, Beck became a certified Rainscaper.



Low-interest loans available for rainscaping.

The State Revolving Fund provides low-interest loans for implementing sustainable stormwater management strategies. Eligible practices include soil quality restoration, bioretention cells, rain gardens, pervious paving systems and more. Loans with an interest rate of three percent can be made to developers, municipalities, businesses and homeowners.



rainscapingiowa.org



iowastormwater.org



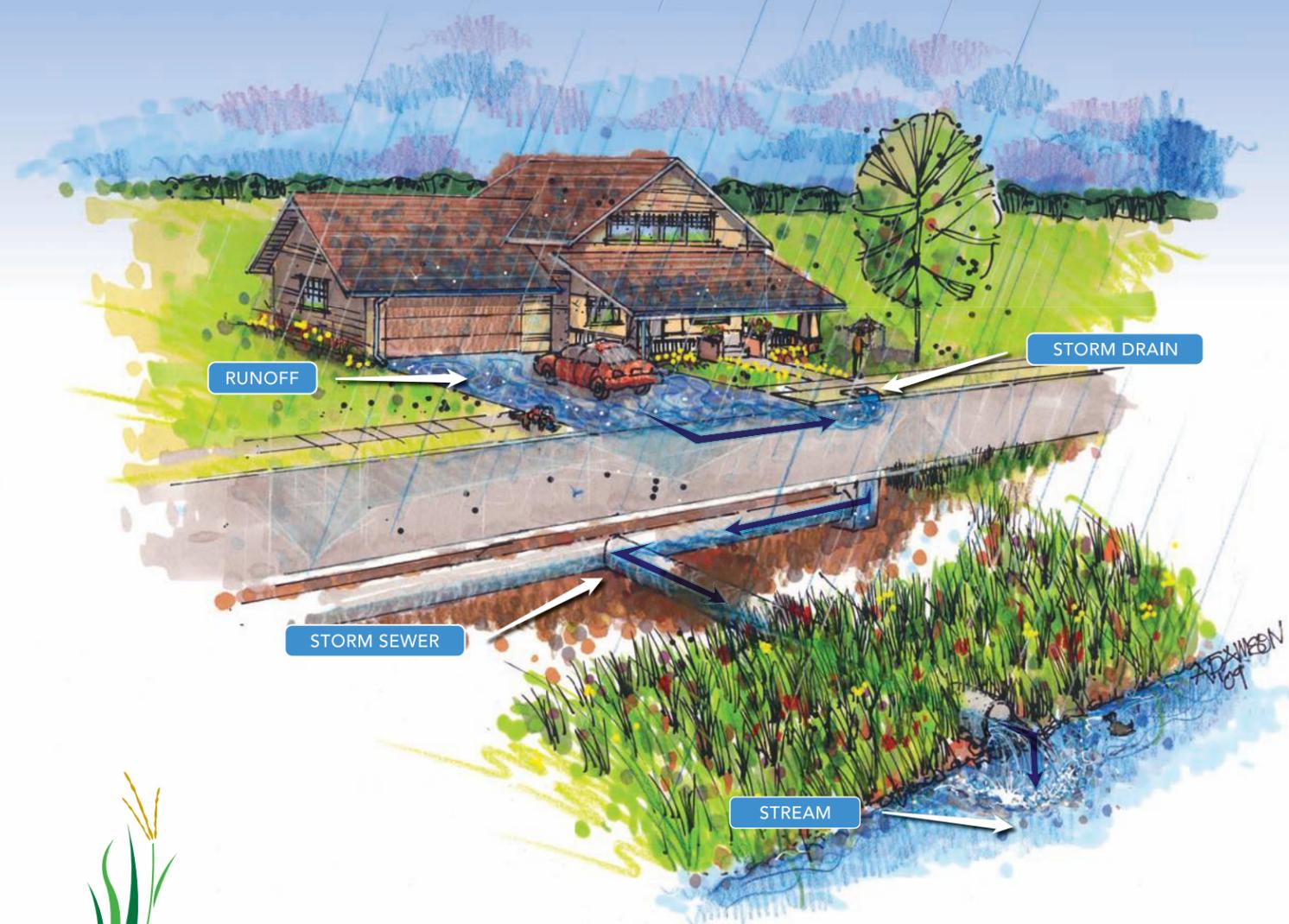
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LANDSCAPES FOR CLEAN WATER



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Don't just landscape . . . **RAINSCAPE!**

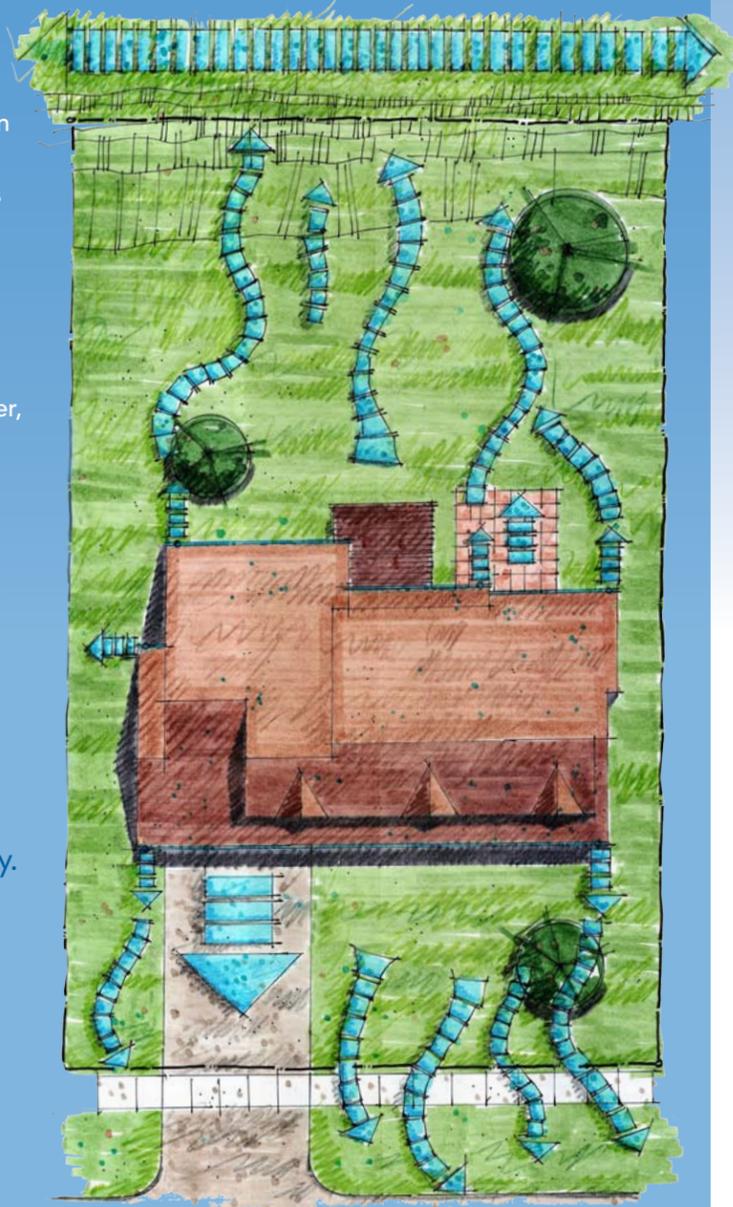
Rainscaping creates beautiful landscapes that manage water sustainably. It includes the installation of stormwater management practices that result in the improvement and protection of water resources in urban areas.

Rainfall runs off roofs, sidewalks, driveways, streets and compacted lawns. The water then flows into the street, down the storm drain, through the storm sewer to the nearest 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 stormwater degrades water quality.

You can help prevent these pollutants from reaching storm drains and streams by incorporating rainscaping practices into your landscape. Do it yourself or hire a certified Rainscaper trained in the design and installation of rainscaping features. Either way, you can create beautiful and functional rainscapes that reduce runoff and improve water quality. So don't just landscape—rainscape.

Learn how water moves on your property.

Your hydrologic footprint is the amount of runoff leaving your property when it rains. *What steps will you take to reduce your hydrologic footprint?*



Rainscaping Practices

Rain Garden

A rain garden is a landscaped depression that captures rainwater runoff from impervious surfaces, such as roofs or driveways. Runoff collected in a rain garden is temporarily ponded before seeping down through the soil. Installing a rain garden helps restore a landscape's ability to manage water more sustainably.



Soil Quality Restoration

As buildings and houses are built, valuable topsoil is removed and the remaining subsoil is compacted by heavy grading equipment and construction activity. Healthy soil is the first step in preventing polluted runoff. Soil quality restoration begins with the decompaction of soils. Compost is added to further increase the soil's organic matter content, which helps a yard absorb more rain.



Permeable Pavement System

Roads, parking lots and driveways account for more than 60 percent of impervious surfaces in urban areas and are the largest generators of stormwater runoff. Permeable pavement systems allow water to infiltrate into layers of rock placed below the pavers and then into surrounding soils.



Native Landscaping

Hardy native plants and grasses with deep root systems help restore soil quality over time. This helps landscapes absorb more rainfall and reduces the amount of runoff. Native landscaping attracts songbirds, dragonflies, butterflies and other desirable species.



Rainwater Harvesting

Harvesting rainwater is gaining in popularity. You can start with a single rain barrel, or employ larger and more elaborate systems to capture large quantities of rainwater and significantly reduce runoff. A 1,500-square-foot ranch house sheds about 1,000 gallons per inch of rain.



Native Turf

Native turf features a combination of low-growing native grasses that create a turf-like appearance. A blend of blue grama, buffalograss and sideoats grama is recommended. Its deep, fibrous root system will help build and maintain soil quality. Native turf is only adapted to well-drained, sunny sites.