



Green Infrastructure 101

In Omaha, buildings, pavement and other hard surfaces prevent rain and snow from soaking into the ground. Instead, this water runs off, often flowing directly to our creeks and eventually into the Missouri River. This runoff carries pollutants from our streets and yards like oil, chemicals, pet waste and lawn fertilizers. The stormwater runoff can also cause erosion and flooding.

Green Infrastructure (GI) is a way to manage stormwater near where it falls to prevent pollution, flooding and erosion. Most GI uses nature (soil and plants) to capture, slow down and filter runoff.



Questions?

Contact Person
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Learn More
<http://bit.ly/OPSGI>



GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE
Take Learning Outside



WICHITA STATE
UNIVERSITY
HUGO WALL SCHOOL
OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS
Environmental Finance Center



UNIVERSITY OF
MARYLAND
ENVIRONMENTAL
FINANCE CENTER

This OPS Green Infrastructure document was developed in partnership with the Wichita State University Environmental Finance Center and the University of Maryland Environmental Finance Center.

3 Reasons OPS ♥'s Green Infrastructure

♥ COST SAVINGS

GI is often less expensive than traditional stormwater infrastructure because it uses less concrete, and maintenance costs less over time.

♥ NEIGHBORHOOD BENEFITS

GI in Omaha keeps the Missouri River and Papillion Creek clean and reduces flooding, pollution and erosion in neighborhoods.

♥ EDUCATIONAL VALUE

GI on school grounds provides learning experiences for students while making the schoolyard a beautiful place for students, teachers, staff and neighbors. Plus, GI adds beauty, recreational opportunities, and increases property values.

Volunteers

It takes effort from volunteers to keep our school's GI looking its best so that students can get the most of out their schoolyard. Establish a volunteer team from the community to assist with GI upkeep. Find a volunteer coordinator. This could be a teacher, a parent or a community member. Their role is to gather and coordinate the volunteers when needed, even through the summer.

Find Volunteers

parents, neighbors, alumni, college students, young professional organizations, business green teams, extension master gardeners



Green Infrastructure is an environmentally friendly way to manage stormwater so that we prevent pollution, flooding and erosion. A rain barrel is a popular GI tool. The barrel is placed under a downspout and collects rainwater.

This GI practice, called rain harvesting, controls the water (and pollutants) draining into our creeks. It's also an alternative to tap water when it's time to water gardens.

It's a Community Effort

Sometimes GI looks a little different than traditional stormwater curbs, gutters, or shortly mowed and manicured landscapes. It may take some outreach to the neighborhood around your school to help them understand how great the GI is for your students, the community and the planet. Students can reach out to the neighborhood with fliers, signage, brochures and schoolyard tours to get the community excited about green infrastructure!

Why Teachers ♥ Green Infrastructure

LESSON PLANS ARE BOUNDLESS WITH GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE!

ART
textures
shapes
color
photography
drawing
painting
shadows
design process
design principles

ENGLISH
poetry
literature
communication
creative writing
social media
flyers
brochures
signs

MATH
calculations
(area, perimeter, rates, slopes, volumes)
GIS
(geographic information system)
data collection
graphing
rates
fractions
increments

SCIENCE
inquiry
water cycle
living systems
chemistry
earth structure & processes
biodiversity
botany
entomology
scientific method
mapping

SOCIAL STUDIES
Nebraska history
local government
politics
water law history
Native American culture

CAREER
natural resources
communication
marketing
government
public administration
law
public safety
skilled & technical services