

What is Save the Rain?

Save the Rain is Onondaga County's program to improve the environment and help Onondaga Lake by reducing the amount of stormwater runoff that flows directly into our sanitary sewer system.

During rain and snow events, stormwater runoff flows directly into sanitary sewer systems, resulting in overflow that can send polluted stormwater and sewage into Onondaga Lake. The County's Department of Water Environment Protection will lead efforts to save the rain by developing green infrastructure and environmentally-friendly solutions to capture stormwater where it lands.



If you want to learn more about how you can use green infrastructure to help keep our water clean, please contact Khri Dodson at kdodson@syracusecoe.org or call 315-443-8818.

Green Programs

The **Onondaga County Green Improvement Fund (GIF)** provides financial assistance for the installation of Green Infrastructure projects on eligible privately owned properties (commercial, business, and not-for-profit owned properties) in the Clinton, Midland and Harbor Brook Combined Sewersheds in the City of Syracuse. Eligible property owners in the Clinton, Midland and Harbor Brook sewer districts can apply to receive grant funding in the amount of: Up to 100% of eligible costs, with a maximum assistance of \$200,000.00 per applicant for a single project.

In its **Rain Barrel Program**, The County is pleased to announce that it has received a grant to provide FREE rain barrels to homeowners in the City of Syracuse. In order to receive a rain barrel, homeowners must attend a brief rain barrel workshop. For a list of upcoming workshops visit www.savetherain.us.

The Save the Rain **Urban Forestry Program** will develop a robust tree planting strategy for neighborhoods throughout the City. This collaborative initiative will support the planting of 8,500 trees over the life of the program. The County will partner with the City of Syracuse and identify locations throughout the sewer shed to support plantings. Tree plantings are an important aspect of the Save the Rain program because they absorb rain water and reduce the potential of runoff to the sewer system.

WHAT IS SAVE THE RAIN?



Green Solutions

Rain Barrel

A rain barrel is a water tank used to collect and store rain water, typically from rooftops via rain gutters. The use of a rain barrel reduces the amount of stormwater from roofs that runs off of lawns and into sewer systems. Because combined sewers in Syracuse can overflow during wet weather, the use of rain barrels can help reduce the amount of pollutants going into Onondaga Lake and its tributaries.

Rain Garden

A rain garden is a sunken garden designed to absorb rainwater from impervious areas such as roofs, driveways, walkways, and compacted lawn areas. Rain gardens reduce runoff by allowing stormwater to soak into the ground, as opposed to flowing into storm drains and surface waters, which can cause erosion, water pollution, flooding, and diminished groundwater.



Middle school students learn about how watersheds work with educators from the Onondaga Earth Corps.



Onondaga County residents paint rain barrels at summer rain barrel workshops.

Green Roof

A green roof is a roof of a building that is partially or completely covered with vegetation and soil, or a growing medium, planted over a waterproofing membrane. Green roofs are used for stormwater management and energy savings, as well as for aesthetic benefits. Green roofs absorb stormwater and release it back into the atmosphere through evaporation and plant transpiration, while reducing urban temperatures by limiting the amount of heat retaining structures. The vegetation on the roofs also absorb a great deal of the pollutants in the water before it is released into the atmosphere.

Porous Pavement

Permeable paving (also known as pervious paving or porous pavement), is a term used to describe paving methods for roads, parking lots and walkways. Porous asphalt, concrete, paving stones or bricks allow precipitation to infiltrate through to the soil below.

Bioswale

Bioswale (or vegetated swale) is a wide, shallow channel with a dense stand of vegetation covering the side slopes and bottom. Swales can be natural or constructed and are designed to promote infiltration, reduce the flow velocity of stormwater runoff and maximize time water spends in the swale, which aids in trapping particulate pollutants and silt. Swales are commonly used around parking lots.

Cistern

A Cistern is a receptacle for holding liquids, usually water. Often cisterns are built to catch and store rainwater. They range in capacity from a few liters to thousands of cubic meters. VP Supply Corporation in Syracuse supplies Jay R. Smith rainwater harvesting systems, which include filters, pumps, pipe and a cistern for collecting rain water.



Porous pavement parking lots have been installed throughout the City of Syracuse, including this project at St. Lucy's Church.