



Headlines



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Rock Island Storm Water Management Project

Rock Island begins new storm water management project

Rock Island, Ill.--Residents in the 2800 block of 36th Street look forward to the coming spring thaw without backyard flooding. The storm water management project is the first for the City of Rock Island funded by the storm water utility revenue and a \$30,000 contribution from Genesis Medical Center, which also donated land for construction of a new storm sewer draining to the detention basin now under construction.

Rock Island public works director Robert Hawes says the storm water project uses environmental approaches to resolve long-standing problems like flooding, erosion and pollution. "The detention basin will use native plants to absorb water and naturally filter sediment before water makes it way to the nearby creek."

The project, to be completed in late 2004, adds a new storm sewer and converts a portion of the ravine into a detention basin. Because of the added storm water in the new storm sewer system, a detention basin will be used to control the peak flow of storm water into the creek. Shive-Hattery civil engineer Andrea Johnson said, "The new storm sewer and detention basin will reduce backyard flooding, and will keep the peak flow of storm water into the creek about the same as it is now."

The detention basin will be seeded with a deep-rooted native prairie plant community that will significantly decrease soil erosion, increase water absorption and infiltration.



The native grasses and wildflowers not only will give it a more natural look, but will also help with biodiversity and naturally cleanse storm water.

The City of Rock Island intends to take this environmental approach to storm water management throughout the community. Besides detention basins, other techniques include vegetated swales, rain gardens, riffle pools and native plant restoration. "Using sustainable approaches like on-site storm water management, there will be less flooding, more stable creek flow, less erosion and better storm water quality," Hawes said. "It's a cost-effective method and is a win-win solution for residents and the environment. We look forward to using similar storm water management techniques in the coming years to resolve long standing neighborhood storm water problems."