



“Green Infrastructure Grant Awarded”

The RC&D has been awarded \$510,165 from the IL EPA for the Green Infrastructure Grant in the Stormwater Retention and Infiltration Category for the Alton Riparian Zone Restoration.

Green Infrastructure Grants are one of the many tools utilized by the IL EPA to control stormwater pollution in Illinois,” said EPA Interim Director Lisa Bonnett. “Well over half of the impairments to Illinois waterways are due to nonpoint source and stormwater pollution and it comes from many different sources.”

Nonpoint source pollution occurs when runoff from rain and snowmelt carries pollutants into waterways such as rivers, streams, lakes, wetlands, and even groundwater. When rain hits the ground and flows across streets, parking lots, yards, construction sites, farm fields and golf courses, it picks up litter, oil, grease, metals, rubber, dirt, fertilizers, pesticides, animal waste, and other things left behind by people, automobiles and animals depositing them into lakes, rivers, wetlands, coastal waters and even underground sources of drinking water.

“Green infrastructure” means any storm water management practice with the goal of preserving or restoring natural hydrology. Green infrastructure includes methods of using soil and vegetation to promote soil percolation, evapotranspiration and filtration, and involves the preservation and restoration of natural landscape features, such as forests, floodplains, headwaters, and wetlands.