

## ***Learn, Do And Talk It Up!***

The [Soak It Up!](#) project at Habitat for Humanity ReStore is creating a buzz. Media exposures exceed 11 (here's the most recent). Visitor questions to contractors added up to an hour a day during construction. As winter sets in and outdoor work slows, curious ReStore customers still ask staff about stormwater and *Soak It Up!*

The point is keeping water out of street drains and the public stormwater system. When water soaks in where it falls, local rivers are cleaner, groundwater supplies are restored, and property owners and local governments can often reduce costs. At the ReStore we're showing simple ways to soak up rain. [Visit now!](#) Come back in April 2016 to celebrate full installation. Viterbo University professor Venancio Luz and students are developing teaching signs with us this winter so contractors, business owners, residential property owners, and students can learn from the site 24/7.

## ***Take Action At Home And At Work!***

Local citizens are stepping up to manage stormwater runoff at home and at work. Here's one story:

“My husband and I built a home last year and a series of hard, long rains fell right after grading. It poured for days, water pooled behind silt fences, silt fences gave way, and erosion was rampant on land that looks almost flat. Afterward, we fixed the silt fences and studied the land. We decided where to add [swales](#) (low areas to stop and soak up water), mulched heavily to hold soil and capture water from the roof, installed concrete pavers where paving is needed, added gutters, and got specific about putting diverse, long-rooted native plants in large areas. Eighteen months later we still watch carefully when it rains, but soil is stabilized and captured water is soaking in, growing food and prairie, and helping us make places where people like to be.”



-Nancy from Lanesboro, Iowa

## ***Step Up! Every Action Counts.***

Next time it rains, go outside. Where does the water go? You might be surprised. We can all make a difference. [Start noticing how others capture water.](#) Decide what you can do. Ask for help. Choose materials from your own stash or on the land around you. Go to the ReStore to get inspired or buy what you need. And look at the growing number of products designed to make water infiltration a beautiful, manageable part of your landscape. We're showing as many options as we can at the ReStore to help you make great decisions.

*P.S. Thanks to the generous support of our volunteers and the La Crosse community, Habitat ReStore continues to grow and had its best month ever in October.*

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