

Thank you for helping us connect with people to explain the importance of stormwater management in the La Crosse area, and to share good news about a great learning site that will be constructed in September at the Habitat ReStore.

Our goal is to show how actions at home and work can reduce pollution in our rivers, create great places, and reduce expenses for property owners and our communities. The ReStore learning center and *Soak It Up!* campaign are making best practices visible and understandable.

This is the first of a series of emails you'll be receiving. Please see the information below and attached, and spread the word in any way possible. If you have questions, concerns, or ideas...please let me know!

STORMWATER 101: KEY TERMS

Stormwater runoff - Rain or melted snow that does not soak into the ground, but flows to a storm drain, ditch, or stream

Infiltrate - Soak into the ground

Stormwater Management - Actions that control, reduce, eliminate or filter pollution from runoff

Biofilter - Any technique that naturally captures runoff, and helps with infiltration

Examples: Rain Gardens, Retention Ponds, and Landscape Swales

La Crosse Urban Stormwater Group - Local governments that have joined forces to reduce stormwater runoff (La Crosse County, Cities of La Crosse & Onalaska, Towns of Campbell, Holland, Medary, Onalaska & Shelby and the Villages of Holmen & West Salem)

A GREAT PROJECT: STORMWATER LEARNING AT THE HABITAT RESTORE

After a year of planning, *Soak It Up!* is officially under way. This learning project is led by the La Crosse Urban Stormwater Group, in partnership with Habitat for Humanity/La Crosse, supported by many local businesses and nonprofits.

We'll construct many stormwater management practices at the ReStore, so it becomes a "poster child" for what all property owners can do to reduce runoff. Already, native fruit trees have been planted, garden beds have been built, and volunteers are pulling weeds and removing rock around the ReStore. Starting August 31, construction will begin for real, continuing well into September.

LOCAL NEWS

If you look around, we are surrounded by examples of stormwater management and people who want to help reduce the effects of runoff.



The University of Wisconsin La Crosse is a great example of Stormwater Management. Above is a giant retention pond located off of La Crosse Street.



Christian Strauss, of Boy Scout Troop 91, directs the stenciling of a stormwater drain opening for his Eagle Scout project. This project alerts residents that water going into the stormwater system flows into a nearby stream.

WAYS TO HELP

- 1) Spread the word! Send out this information to your network by email, create a link to www.lacrossewaters.org/stormwater on your website, post this information on social media, or add this information to a newsletter.
- 2) Volunteer your time with the Habitat for Humanity. The ReStore is always looking for people to help in the store, but for this project, they need volunteers to pull weeds and remove and wash current landscaping rock. Email www.volunteer@habitatlacrosse.org
- 3) We are looking for donations of old steel garden tools and tool heads for a sculpture that will incorporate water at the Habitat ReStore.

Want to get involved with sustainability in our area but don't know where to start? Volunteer at Habitat for Humanity's ReStore. All items sold are donations and diverted from the landfill. The proceeds go back to building homes in our community. We need help at the ReStore cleaning items, stocking shelves and helping customers. Sign up to help by contacting Amanda Fehr at volunteer@habitatlacrosse.org.

Donate Your Old Steel Garden Tools and Tool Heads

Do you have old tools or parts of tools collecting in a corner of your garage or basement? Are you ready for a good clear-out? Bring them to the ReStore! We're now raising funds and collecting parts for a sculpture that will incorporate water, made of repurposed materials and your tools. It will stand at the entry to the ReStore, reminding us to get creative, and live sustainably. Donations will be accepted for this project through September 30