

DISTRICT'S GREEN INITIATIVES TO RESTORE PRAIRIES AND MANAGE STORMWATER WITH ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP VISION

WHY A Native Prairie Landscape?

- Urban landscapes are commonly vegetated with non-native Kentucky bluegrass turf, which requires extensive care and maintenance, including heavy use of fertilizers and herbicides.
- Runoff from turf grass landscapes is a major source of pollution (plant nutrients, herbicides, pesticides, etc.) in urban streams.
- Native prairie grasses and forbs, being well adapted to the local environment, thrive with minimum care and maintenance and thus landscaping with native prairie plants is a better alternative.
- The native prairie landscapes (NPL) offer tremendous ecological benefits, conserve water, and minimize pollution in the urban streams and waterways.
- The mission of the District is to protect the health and safety of the public in its service area, and to protect the quality of the water supply and environment in the region.
- The District initiated a program in 2003 to convert its turf grass landscapes into NPL. Approximately 75 acres of turf have been converted into NPL at the District's seven water reclamation plants, Main Stream Pumping Station, and Willow Springs Berm.

Benefits of Native Prairie Landscape

- Low maintenance costs.
 - No irrigation
 - No fertilizers
 - Minimal use of herbicides
- Increases water infiltration due to extensive root system that contributes to stormwater runoff mitigation.
- Increases biodiversity and provides habitat for wildlife.
- Sequesters atmospheric CO₂ and builds soil organic matter.
- Reduces pollution and improves air and water quality.
- Provides public education opportunities.

What is Special about Prairie Plants?



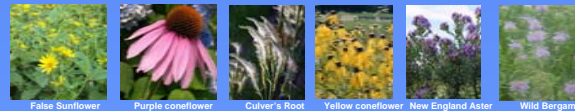
Restored Native Prairie Landscapes at The District Campuses



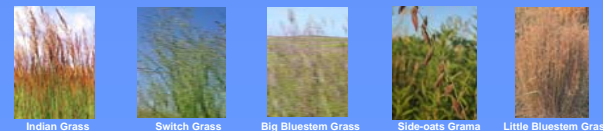
Employee Enrichment and Education Opportunities



Common Native Prairie Forbs



Common Native Prairie Grasses



Stormwater Management

Rain Gardens



Permeable Pavements



- Permeable pavement evaluation project is being conducted at the Stickney WRP.
- Water quantity and quality is being monitored.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit the District website at: <http://www.mwrđ.org>
 Or write to: Public Information Office, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago, 100 East Erie St., Chicago, IL 60611
 Or call: 312-751-6633