

# Funding Stormwater Projects THROUGH THE CWSRF PROGRAM



**E**xcessive nutrients are one of the biggest problems in Oklahoma's rivers and streams. One of the main sources of nutrients and other pollutants is stormwater runoff. Traditionally, stormwater infrastructure has been gray, using materials such as concrete, pipes, inlets, etc. However, integrating green components would be more beneficial in meeting Oklahoma's water quality goals.

By incorporating green infrastructure and low impact development practices into stormwater management, communities will reduce pollutant loading by capturing the first flush of runoff, allowing it to soak into the ground and naturally remove pollutants.

Green infrastructure and low impact development practices are now eligible for funding under the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) Loan Program. The CWSRF provides below market interest rate loans to public entities which can be repaid with stormwater fees, water/sewer revenue or other methods.



◀ Bio-retention roundabout in Bixby, OK. Funded through the CWSRF in June 2011.

When appropriate, replace traditional/gray stormwater infrastructure like pipes, inlets and roadside ditches with one or more of the following:

- Permeable/porous pavements;
- Green roofs;
- Tree boxes;
- Vegetated swales;
- Vegetated median strips;
- Cisterns and rain barrels
- Land conservation and reforestation;
- Downspout disconnections;
- Eliminate curbs/gutters;
- Riparian buffers;
- Parks and greenways;
- Wetlands;
- Rain gardens and bio-infiltration practices; or
- Retrofit projects to detain and infiltrate stormwater flows.

Benefits of implementing green infrastructure and low impact development practices for stormwater management include the following:

- Cleaner water;
- Increased groundwater recharge;
- Source water protection;

- Reduced peak flow of stormwater runoff;
- Capturing the first flush of stormwater runoff;
- Reduced frequency of sanitary sewer overflows;
- Drought tolerance;
- Better flood management;
- Reduced urban temperatures;
- Restored aquatic habitats;
- Cleaner air;
- Community benefits; and
- Balancing growth needs with environmental protection.

For more information regarding financing terms or requirements, contact:

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## Affordable Funding

Although CWSRF money is not free, it may be the lowest rate you'll find on the market today. CWSRF loans have interest rates at 40% below AAA market rate and cover up to 100% of a project's costs with no matching requirement on behalf of the borrower. This is different from a grant, which typically requires the grantee to provide matching funds that must be available at the start of a project. In some cases, the savings accumulated with a CWSRF loan are comparable to a partial grant.

▶ Hazel Creek Regional Infiltration Facility and low impact development demonstration site with a porous concrete walking trail, rain barrel, rain garden, and native plants. Photo courtesy of City of Spokane Public Works Department.

