

Recycling Facts:

- Recycling aluminum saves 95 percent of the energy used to manufacture virgin aluminum.
- Recycling 1 ton of newspaper saves enough energy to heat a home for 6 weeks.
- Recycling 1 ton of plastics saves the equivalent of 3.85 barrels of oil.
- Recycling 1 glass bottle can save enough energy to light a 100-watt bulb for 4 hours.
- Recycling and composting reduce green house gases by reducing emissions from incinerators and landfills which are major sources of methane gas.
- The recycling industry expands Missouri's economy more than \$10 billion per year.

-Show-Me Recycling

Being Green Since The Seventies: University City

Since the 1970s, University City has been a leader in green practices beginning with a recycling program. From that recycling program to signing the U.S. Conference of Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement, the environment remains a key concern for the City. These numerous green practices and initiatives are role models for municipalities.

University City, home to the only LEED certified city hall, has recently become a member of ICLEI to further their commitment and action to environmental issues. ICLEI provides knowledge of green practices as well as the software needed to assess the City's energy use and emissions. Combining the informational

resources and the baseline inventory of the City's carbon footprint, ICLEI will help the City Council make informed decisions. In adopting this software, University City joined Creve Coeur and Olivette in using ICLEI to address environmental concerns.

The current efforts exist on a foundation of previous environmental actions. Some of these green practices are:

- Establishing a Green Practices Committee
- Single stream recycling
- The use of biodiesel fuel 20
- Implemented an Urban Forestry Board
- Installed LED bulbs in all city-owned traffic signals

- Provided over 20 miles of bike, walking, and pedestrian trails.

While University City has a rich history of green practices, plans for future initiatives are being formulated. Some of the future green practices are:

- The production of green housing
- Development of a wet pond at the Ruth Park Driving Range
- Installation of rain gardens

Green practices have been and are increasingly more feasible as demonstrated by University City. A greener St. Louis Region is built by these types of municipal environmental actions.



Single Stream Recycling



Cart Update

The Municipal League has been working with St. Louis County to provide large recycling carts to municipalities who have recycling as part of their minimum level service. Growing demand for recy-

cling carts by municipalities resulted in requests for \$1.1 million in carts. This clearly displays the importance of thinking big on recycling and small on trash.

The Municipal League has also worked with the SWMD to develop educa-

tional materials to help citizens understand what single stream recycling is and how we can benefit from it.

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Stormwater Solutions: Rain Gardens

Velda Village Hills and Brentwood are a couple of communities around St. Louis County who have decided to use rain gardens to address the problems surrounding Stormwater runoff.

The Problem

As cities and municipalities continue to build and decrease the amount of natural space, stormwater increasingly does not enter the soil. The rain water runs off of the pavement and into the sewer system as it eventually settles into streams, rivers, and lakes. The stormwater does not get filtered and so carries with it all the pollutants as it is deposited into other bodies of water. Contamination of ecosystems and drinking water become hazardous to communities. Many negatives result from stormwater runoff including:

- Overall reduction in groundwater recharge.
- Long-term lowering of groundwater tables and loss of stream flow during dry weather.
- Increased erosion.
- Increased water quality impacts caused by pollutants in stormwater runoff.

- Flooding— especially more frequent “flash” flooding

The Rain Garden Solution

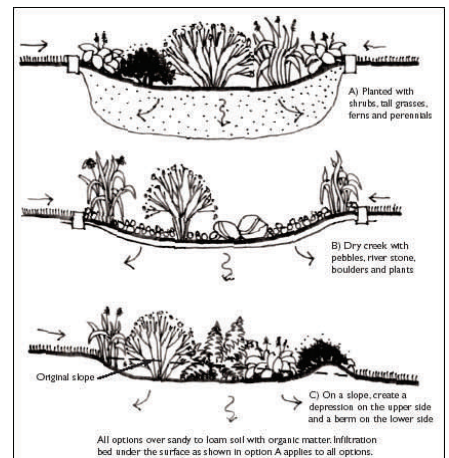
The implementation of rain gardens are a great environmental solution to an environmental problem. Rain gardens allow for the stormwater runoff to infiltrate the soil which in turn reduces potential water quality problems. Besides filtration of runoff water, rain gardens have many benefits:

- Provides habitat for wildlife and, with the proper plants, increases the number and diversity of birds and butterflies.
- Provides an attractive and creative alternative to traditional lawn landscapes
- Requires less maintenance than lawns because they do not need to be mowed, fertilized or watered once established
- Increases property values with creative landscaping designs
- Reducing storm drain overload and flooding if adopted on a community or neighborhood scale
- Recharges local and regional aquifers

- Helps protect streams and lakes from pollutants carried by urban stormwater— lawn fertilizers and pesticides, oil and other fluids that leak from cars, and numerous harmful substances that wash off roofs and paved areas

References on Rain Gardens and Their Construction

- <http://dnr.wi.gov/runoff/rg/rgmanual.pdf>
- <http://www.uri.edu/ce/healthylandscapes/raingarden.htm>
- <http://www.uri.edu/ce/healthylandscapes/2702.pdf>



Single Stream Recycling (continued from pg 1)

New DVD Available

One helpful resource that you may obtain through the Municipal League is a five minute video entitled “Recycling: The Single Stream Way.” This DVD highlights the impact single stream has on municipalities, our community as a whole, and the environment. Single stream

recycling has been shown to dramatically increase recycling rates, which ultimately helps to reduce the cost of trash service in a municipality.

It is important for our local municipalities to promote single stream recycling and other environmentally friendly values in order to have a healthier community.

If you would like more information or a copy of “Recycling-The Single Stream Way” DVD, please contact the Municipal League at (314) 726-4747. The video can also be viewed on the League’s website at www.stlmuni.org under Current Events.