

Smart Landscaping Starts with Stormwater in Mind

The way your property is landscaped and maintained can have a big impact on local water quality. Fertilizer runoff, eroding mulch beds, and poor vegetation choices all contribute to stormwater pollution and clogged drainage systems.

— Good landscaping isn't just about looks—it's a stormwater best practice:

- Use native and drought-tolerant plants – These require less water and fewer chemicals.
- Stabilize soil – Grass, ground cover, and mulch prevent erosion and reduce runoff.
- Create buffers – Keep a vegetated strip along pavement edges, slopes, and water features.

A healthy, well-managed landscape protects your property and your local waterways.



LID: Stormwater the Sustainable Way



Learn more online:
ThinkBlueMA.org



BMPs for Site Landscaping

Most of the Best Management Practices (BMPs) identified below are non-structural and cost little or nothing to implement. This listing is not all-inclusive and other non-structural and structural BMPs can be implemented to further reduce the potential of contributing to stormwater pollution.

DO'S

- Maintain vegetation along slopes and water features to reduce erosion.
- Use slow-release, phosphorus-free fertilizers when needed.
- Sweep hardscapes regularly to remove sediment and debris.
- Keep irrigation systems in good working order to prevent overspray.
- Direct downspouts to landscaped areas, not paved surfaces.
- Monitor landscaped areas for erosion and fix bare spots quickly.

DON'TS

- Over-water or allow sprinkler runoff onto sidewalks or driveways.
- Let grass clippings or leaves enter storm drains.
- Apply fertilizers or pesticides before heavy rain.
- Leave exposed soil uncovered for extended periods.
- Dump yard waste or excess mulch into drainage areas.
- Allow invasive or fast-spreading species to crowd out stabilizing vegetation.

***Think Blue Means
Clean Water for You!***

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