Where Does the Rain Go?

The roads, sidewalks and parking lots that surround Hartford's Capitol support the city's economic vitality. But these "impervious surfaces" and the corresponding absence of green space also impact our environment. When it rains, more "stormwater runoff" winds up in our storm drain system, instead of naturally seeping into the ground. As the runoff flows over the pavement, it picks up pollutants that end up in our rivers, streams and oceans.

"Green" techniques can help divert stormwater runoff from storm drains.

Green or low impact development techniques – such as porous pavements, green roofs, rain gardens and rain harvesting – are cost-effective and environmentally preferable alternatives to conventional drainage techniques. Not only do they reduce the amount of stormwater runoff entering our storm drain system, but they also naturally filter the rain into the earth.

The Hartford Green Capitol project demonstrates the benefits and beauty of green techniques.

The Hartford Green Capitol project provides visitors with the opportunity to see how a green environment can be created utilizing low impact development. Several green infrastructure retrofits have been made in and around the State Capitol grounds, including the installation of rain gardens, walkways and pavements that will allow stormwater to flow through to the ground. A green roof installed on a basement roof will allow the public to see it more easily. A cistern under the Capitol parking lot will collect rainwater from the roof for irrigation.

Take the Self-Guided Tour.

Hartford is proud of its beautiful Capitol and now we have even more to be proud of – our green infrastructure. We encourage you to tour the capitol grounds, learn more about low impact development, and try some of these techniques in your own community. Together we can all make a difference.

The green capitol project is a demonstration to highlight green infrastructure retrofits and low impact development (LID) projects supported by Department of Environmental Protection's Watershed Management Program. Green infrastructure and LID can be cost effective, environmentally preferable alternatives to conventional stormwater conveyance and treatment structures.

State of Connecticut
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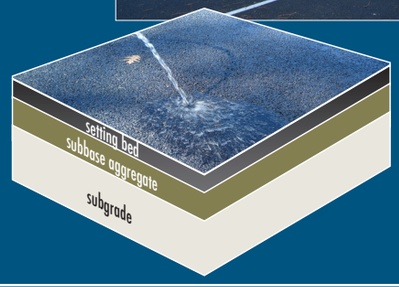
HARTFORD GREEN CAPITOLS PROJECT

State Capitol, Hartford, CT

pervious pavement

allows rain and snowmelt to pass through to the soil below

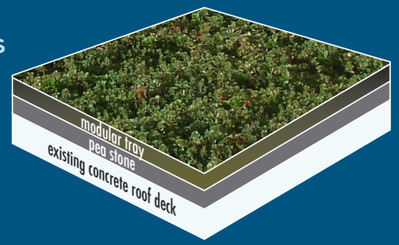
Whether it is porous asphalt, permeable pavers, or pervious concrete, all pervious pavement allows precipitation to pass through what would traditionally be an impervious surface. The pavement can be as simple as paving stones or more specialized like porous asphalt. A stone reservoir is generally required beneath the pavement.



green roofs

absorbs rainwater and reduces heating and cooling costs

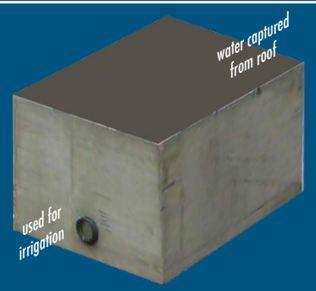
A green roof partially or completely covers a roof with vegetation that is planted over a waterproof membrane and growing medium.



rainwater harvesting

captures and stores rainwater

Rainwater is captured from roof leaders and stored in a below-ground cistern or a simple rain barrel. The water collected can then be used for irrigation and other household uses.



rain gardens

collects and filters runoff

A rain garden is a landscaped, shallow depression that allows rain and snowmelt to be collected and seep naturally into the ground. Native plantings help prevent invasive species.