Natural Landscaping Reduces Runoff

Background Information
Natural landscaping involves both site design and plant selection.

Native plants are adapted to local climate, soil and environmental conditions. Properly placed, they require very little maintenance and water – and that means better water quality because there is less runoff, and less need for pesticides and fertilizers.

Non-native Xeriscape™ plants also require less water and chemical support, and may be good landscape choices as long as they are not on the state’s noxious weeds list.

Community Strategies
• As a key part of site planning, preserve and enhance existing natural areas such as prairies, wetlands and floodplains.
• Encourage the use of native species and/or Xeriscaping™ in your community’s landscape design criteria.

Examples
Please see backside for examples.

At a Glance
• Low maintenance plants that require little water result in better water quality because there is less runoff, and less need for pesticides and fertilizers.
• Native plants, which are adapted to local climate, soil and environmental conditions, are often used in natural landscaping design.
• Non-native Xeriscape™ plants may be good choices as long as they are not on the state’s noxious weeds list.
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For More Information

EPA – A Sourcebook on Natural Landscaping for Public Officials
www.epa.gov/glnpo/greenacres/toolkit/chap1.html#WHAT%20IS


USDA Invasive and Noxious Weed List http://plants.usda.gov/java/noxious

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Adapted with permission from the Water Protection Toolkit for Local Officials, AWARE Colorado.