Project Background

Rainwater runoff is now the largest source of pollutants to rivers, lakes, and streams in the United States. Pollutants in rainwater runoff degrade water quality and contain chemicals that are toxic to aquatic life. Land development also increases the frequency and intensity of flooding and decreases the recharge of water to underground aquifers.

So, what can be done to help improve our waters? Simple: replicate nature. Through the use of stormwater management techniques you can capture, treat and naturally return runoff to surface and ground waters. This will reduce the quantity of rainwater that runs off and the amount of pollutants reaching lakes and streams, while recharging groundwater.

The slope and amount of impervious surfaces at our homes and businesses impacts the water quality of the Mississippi River. This "before" photo of Victor's 1959 Cafe shows a 100% impervious space which drained directly to the street.

Project Description and Goals

The goal of the project was to design and install a variety of stormwater management techniques (also known as **B**est **M**anagement **P**ractices [BMPs]) on residential and commercial properties in the Kingfield Neighborhood in south Minneapolis. The Kingfield Neighborhood Association (KFNA) worked with an environmental consulting company, Fortin Consulting, and an engineering firm, Emmons & Olivier Resources, to design some great looking, environmentally conscious yards in order to show neighbors a variety of ways that you can send less water, and cleaner water, to the Mississippi River.

Victor's now treats 50% of its impervious surface on site using a variety of stormwater techniques.