

how will my community benefit?

Stormwater management has improved dramatically in the past 20 years. Policy-makers, planners, and stormwater engineers have adopted state-of-the-art planning and design practices that better protect life and property, avoid future liabilities, and protect our communities' natural resources and quality of life. **A watershed approach to stormwater management systems can provide multiple benefits,** both immediate and long-term.

- **Reduced flooding:** the latest stormwater design techniques work with natural watershed processes to more effectively reduce flooding risk, protect life and property
- **Reduced costs:** state-of-the-art stormwater designs are often less expensive to build, are more durable and less expensive to maintain, and better protect streams and other infrastructure
- **Improved water quality:** water quality protection and treatment are seamlessly integrated at every phase of development: from site

plans that preserve natural cover and absorb rainfall, to BMPs that use natural processes to treat pollutants as they infiltrate, convey, and detain runoff

- **Natural resource conservation:** better site plans and stormwater BMPs preserve existing vegetation and habitat, introduce native landscaping for water quality treatment, and protect streams from degradation
- **Recreation and amenities:** stormwater BMPs (such as stream buffers, native landscaping, ponds, and wetlands) create open space, promote passive recreation, and provide beautiful natural settings
- **Economic development:** numerous studies demonstrate that natural areas, landscaping, and BMPs improve adjacent property values; recreational opportunities and natural areas attract development; and costs savings reduce taxes



*Healthy stream buffer along the Big Blue River
at Red Bridge Road*

