

## *Lenexa, Kan.: Rain to Recreation Program*

### Goal:

The Rain to Recreation program's goal is to reduce flooding, improve water quality, preserve the environment and open space, and provide for recreational and educational opportunities in the undeveloped portion of Lenexa.

### Project Description:

The underlying principle is to grow and develop with nature. Thus land uses, the street network and other infrastructure needs are reconsidered and realigned based on their impact on the environment. Numerous planning charrettes and public meetings were held to obtain input and review the products of the staff, consultants and development interest team. As a result the Rain to Recreation program reconsidered some regional detention needs and locations so as to lessen the impact on the environment while providing the appropriate level of flood protection.

### Community Benefits and Lessons Learned:

Fixing problems using traditional stormwater techniques has cost communities dearly. Lenexa's plan of preserving natural resources including forested stream corridors (i.e., "green" infrastructure) for the purpose of stormwater management was found to be about 25 percent less expensive than the traditional stormwater infrastructure approach. The savings is realized through (1) economies of scale by "regionalizing" stormwater management facilities, (2) reducing traditional "gray" infrastructure (i.e., pipes and concrete) and (3) being proactive rather than reactive. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure and in Lenexa's case worth over \$25,000,000.

### Funding Sources and Partnerships:

Johnson County, Kan.  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
State and Tribal Assistance (STAG)  
Kansas Alliance of Wetlands and Streams (KAWS)  
National Association of Interpreters grants  
U.S. Forest Service.

### Contact:

Michael Beezhold  
12350 W. 87th St. Pkwy  
Lenexa, Kan.  
(913) 477-7697



*An illustration shows what homes would look like if built within the zone of influence on Lake Lenexa.*



*Streamway and transition zones are visible with wetland in the background*