

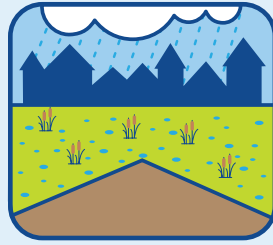
Funding Nature-Based Infrastructure:

Creating the Water Resource Restoration Program in Texas

Why?



Traditional infrastructure is a *Gray Funnel* sending stormwater rushing down drains to flood dams.



But distributed nature-based features create a *Green Sponge* letting stormwater soak into the earth, filtering pollution, and reducing pressure on flood defense systems.

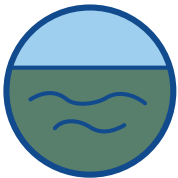
Proven Results

Iowa created a Water Resource Restoration Program which has financed over 110 nature-based projects in 86 communities. Most of the projects are in communities of less than 2,000 people and collaborations between industry, agricultural partners, local government, and community stakeholders.



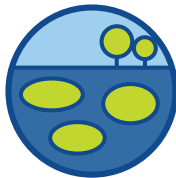
Readlyn, Iowa, population 800, constructed this wetland. It removes up to 80% of pollutants that used to reach the Wapsipicon River, and prevents flooding in local agricultural fields.

Benefits



Improving water quality:

Nature-based systems can filter out up to 90% of solid pollutants.



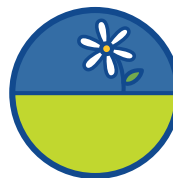
Preventing drought:

Allowing rainwater to soak into the soil replenishes aquifers and eases drought.



Sequestering Carbon:

Trees and green roofs capture carbon dioxide, mitigating the effects of global warming.



Reducing urban heat:

Green spaces absorb heat in cities, reducing summer temperatures by 10-15° F.



Reducing flooding:

Stormwater that soaks into green space doesn't gather into torrents that flood communities downstream.



Improving Public Health:

Green space reduces stress, lowers hypertension, and improves our well being.



Opportunities in Texas



1MM
Wastewater
principal

Loan Costs
(interest and fees)

\$1 million CWSRF loan



1MM
Wastewater
principal

Loan Costs
(interest and fees)

\$1 million loan with water
resource restoration project

Water
resource
restoration
project

Texas' Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) has financed only two "green infrastructure" projects, neither of which were nature-based. Legislation this session could change that. Creating a Water Resource Restoration Program within the CWSRF will allow communities who apply for Clean Water State Revolving Fund loans to receive a lower interest rate if they use the funds saved for a nature-based project. This allows communities to build two projects for the price of one and reap all the benefits of nature-based infrastructure.

