

Chicago's "A Guide to Stormwater Best Management Practices"

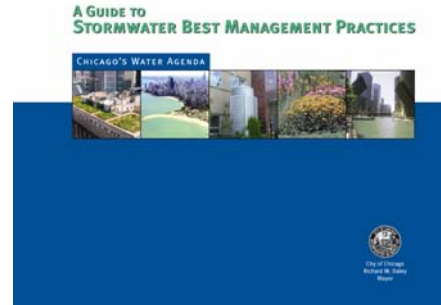
Description

As part of Mayor Daley's commitment to the environment, and in keeping with the City's interest in stewarding "green infrastructure" measures to protect and enhance our water resources, the City created "A Guide to Stormwater Best Management Practices." This Guide follows on the City of Chicago's Water Agenda

(http://egov.cityofchicago.org/webportal/COCWebPortal/COC_ATTACH/wateragenda.pdf).

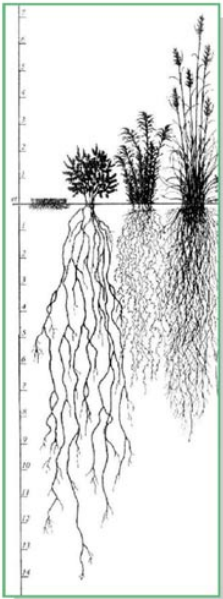
The Guide describes practical site design and drainage best management practices (BMPs) for residential, commercial and industrial developments in Chicago. It is in its second print run, has been produced on CD and is available online at

http://egov.cityofchicago.org/webportal/COCWebPortal/COC_ATTACH/GuideToStormwaterBMPs.pdf.



Background

The City is committed to leading by example, piloting environmentally friendly projects throughout the city. The Guide educated the development community and the general public about BMP applicability, maintenance and cost considerations while offering the City of Chicago an opportunity to share their experience in stormwater BMP implementation on city projects.



Root length of conventional turf grass (left) as compared to native plant roots (right).

BMP practices described in the Guide included:

- Green Roofs
- Downspouts, Rain Barrels and Cisterns
- Permeable Paving
- Natural Landscaping
- Filter Strips
- Bioinfiltration: Rain Gardens
- Drainage Swales
- Naturalized Detention Basins



Some of Chicago's Green Bungalows utilize rain barrels in yard and garden areas.

Results



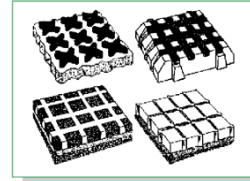
Green roof on top of Chicago's City Hall.

The Guide has been of particular interest to developers, local officials and residents interested in environmental initiatives. As the City is in the midst of developing several other stormwater related policies, the

guide will serve as an excellent community introduction to practices that will be required in the near future.

Contacts

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Paving Blocks and Grids (above). Permeable paving in Chicago will be most effective in areas closer to Lake Michigan that are underlain with sandy, permeable soils.