



**CHISAGO COUNTY  
COURT HOUSE**

**ADDRESS:**

313 North Main St.  
Center City, MN  
55012

**WATERSHED:**

St. Croix River  
Basin

**FUNDING  
PARTNERS**

- Bush Foundation
- MPCA
- Chisago County

**BEST  
MANAGEMENT  
PRACTICES  
IMPLEMENTED**

- Rain Gardens
- Infiltration Swale
- Native Vegetation
- Vegetated Erosion Control Blanket
- Erosion Control Wall
- Level Spreader



# St. Croix Valley Healthy Waters Initiative

Center City, MN

## Chisago County Government Center

“The Chisago County Government Center is located on a peninsula between North Center and Pioneer Lakes. North Center Lake is listed on the 2008 Impaired Waters list due to excess nutrients. Water from North Center Lake flows into the Sunrise River (Impaired) which ultimately flows into the St. Croix River (Impaired).

The Government Center has 142,000 square feet of impervious surfaces. During a one inch storm event, 88,000 gallons of stormwater runoff flows untreated directly into North Center and Pioneer Lakes via storm drains. This translates to 2.6 million gallons of untreated stormwater runoff each year! The runoff contains many pollutants including sediment, oil, grease, metals, fertilizers, pesticides, garbage, leaves, grass clippings, road salt, and pet waste.” *Jerry Spetzman, Water Resource Manager, Chisago County, 2007*



The Chisago County Government Center Design is a comprehensive solution to retrofit the county’s property to capture and treat as much stormwater as possible with the existing infrastructure. Given the amount of impervious surface, a 1” rainfall was set as the parameter for design. BMPs investigated were: Raingardens, Infiltration swales, Shoreline plantings, Woodland plantings, Erosion control wall, Level spreader, and Permeable pavers. With such a large area, the county will implement the plan in phases, as funding becomes available. For the first phase the county approved a raingarden, infiltration swale, erosion control wall and level spreader, woodland planting, and shoreline restoration.

“The Chisago County Government Center is the single largest contributor of stormwater runoff to North Center (Impaired) and Pioneer Lakes. As a result of this project a portion of the untreated runoff from the Government Center will be infiltrated into the soil. Perhaps the largest impact will be the educational value of the project. Every day, many visitors from across the county come to the Government Center. Visitors will have the opportunity to see the rain gardens and associated signage, and learn about the value of being steward.” *Jerry Spetzman, Water Resource Manager, Chisago County, 2007*

Great River Greening  
35 W. Water St. #201  
Saint Paul MN 55107  
Tel 651 665.9500  
[www.greatrivergreening.org](http://www.greatrivergreening.org)

*restoring the land,  
renewing communities*

# St. Croix Valley Healthy Waters Initiative



OUR

MISSION

Great River

Greening

leads and

inspires

community-

based

restoration

of natural areas

and

open spaces



NORTH LAKE STREET INFILTRATION SWALE



NATIVE PLANTING



SHERIFF'S RAIN GARDEN

The three photos depict the different BMPs used throughout the site to capture rain water as well as reduce turf mowing and irrigation needs. The infiltration swale (left) was installed along North Lake Street to create better infiltration for water flowing off the road. The Sheriff's rain garden (bottom right) also helps reduce stormwater runoff by diverting the flow towards the depression instead of the nearby drain. Finally, the woodland planting (top right), reduces mowing and irrigation needs around the property as well as restores a portion of the native shoreline vegetation.



Great River Greening  
35 W. Water St. #201  
Saint Paul MN 55107  
Tel 651 665.9500  
[www.greatrivergreening.org](http://www.greatrivergreening.org)

*restoring the land,  
renewing communities*