

## Transforming a contaminated site in a Minneapolis neighborhood

To successfully complete the Towerside District Stormwater System project and transform a neighborhood in Minneapolis the Mississippi Watershed Management Organization (MWMO) brought together private and public partners.

These partners redeveloped a site with contaminated soils that now stores over 200,000 gallons of stormwater for re-use in the Prospect Park neighborhood.

This first of its kind stormwater system is a cost-effective way to handle stormwater and reuse it while also providing public green space acting as a filtration basin. This allows the system to do more than just manage stormwater runoff.

MWMO Executive Director Doug Snyder said, “We believe this type of system represents the future of sustainable, restorative urban redevelopment. Instead of planning our infrastructure systems separately, we can plan them in such a way that they work together to fill multiple needs.”



*The main bioretention basin after construction finished in October 2016.*

The project was identified through the MWMO’s stormwater assessment of Bridal Veil Creek where more than 70 retrofit projects were identified to improve water quality, reduce runoff volumes, and manage the rate at which stormwater leaves the site.

A major initiative by the MWMO was focusing on Restorative Development and Watershed Management. This method concentrated on cost benefit analysis, research, design, and implementation where the MWMO brings water resource planning in at the front end and is not reacting to re-development following city and other approvals.

The Towerside Stormwater System is located in the Towerside Innovation District, near the University of Minnesota. Innovation districts are based on a framework in which partnerships of higher education, business, and government foster joint efforts for job growth and redevelopment in physically compact, transit-accessible and technologically advanced areas.



*The storage tank beneath the main basin can hold up to 206,575 gallons of treated runoff.*