



WATER RESOURCE CENTER

## FACT SHEET

Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission

# WATER RESOURCE CENTER

### Mission

*To promote regional collaboration on water topics; be a leader in facilitating coordination and education; and provide technical assistance to its member governments.*

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# Landscape Restoration STRUCTURAL STORMWATER BMPs

**Landscape Restoration** describes the use of sustainable landscaping practices in areas beyond riparian buffers and other specially protected areas. Landscape restoration includes the conversion of turf to meadow; the restoration of meadow areas; and, the reforestation of forested areas. Landscape restoration is exceptionally effective at improving water quality. Other stormwater management functions of landscape restoration can include groundwater recharge, volume reduction, and peak rate control. Landscape restoration can be used in a variety of land use settings, including residential, commercial, industrial, highway, and more.

BMP Profile	
Name	Landscape Restoration
Type	Structural
Grouping	Restoration BMP
Stormwater Management Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Water Quality</li> <li>◆ Volume Reduction</li> <li>◆ Groundwater Recharge</li> <li>◆ Peak Rate Control</li> </ul>
Potential Applications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Residential</li> <li>◆ Commercial</li> <li>◆ Industrial</li> <li>◆ Retrofit</li> <li>◆ Highway/Road</li> <li>◆ Ultra Urban</li> </ul>



Converting turf grass into meadow is one type of landscape restoration. Landscape restoration is a stormwater management BMP that greatly increases water quality and can also provide peak rate control, volume reduction, and recharge groundwater. *Photos: 2.bp.blogspot.com & countrylawn.webs.com*

### Key Considerations for Landscape Restoration

- ◆ Use native plants for restoration areas and landscaped areas
- ◆ Minimize or eliminate use of pesticides and fertilizers
- ◆ During development process, avoid soil compaction, establish erosion controls, and minimize disturbance
- ◆ Restored meadows and forests require minimal maintenance in comparison to formal landscape
- ◆ Stormwater management benefits increase as native plants and trees become more established
- ◆ Soil, geology, terrain, history of site, existing native and non-native vegetation, and sensitive habitats should be carefully considered during planning and planting
- ◆ Planting should not be done during drought

This information was adapted from the Pennsylvania Stormwater Best Practices Manual. Check out SPC's other fact sheets to learn more about specific BMPs, flooding, and more.

