Michigan State University has implemented Low Impact Development (LID) practices to capture stormwater from surrounding roads, parking lots, and buildings. Previously, water from these surfaces entered the storm sewer system, which led directly into the Red Cedar River.

Now, through a variety of LIDs, stormwater is captured and either reused or infiltrated on site. Capturing stormwater reduces pollutant runoff into the river therefore improving water quality.

**Riparian Buffers**
Consisting of a vegetated strip, riparian buffers are designed to provide control of the stream environment for the improvement of water quality from adjacent land uses. Riparian buffers are an effective practice used to reduce the amount of pollutants, such as sediments and nutrients, from draining into streams and rivers. By moderating fluctuations in stream temperature and controlling light levels, riparian buffers enhance stream quality. The deep root structure of native plants helps to stabilize the soil and reduce erosion. The vegetative environment also provides habitat and biodiversity.

**Did You Know?**
Stormwater drains into the Red Cedar River from surrounding urban areas. It carries pollutants and increases water levels during major rainfall events. Riparian buffer strips are key in cleansing stormwater, reducing water flow, and providing stream bank stabilization.

**Contributing Departments**
- Infrastructure Planning and Facilities
- Institute of Water Research
- Department of Horticulture

For more information and other tours, visit: bespartangreen.msu.edu or www.msu-water.msu.edu