

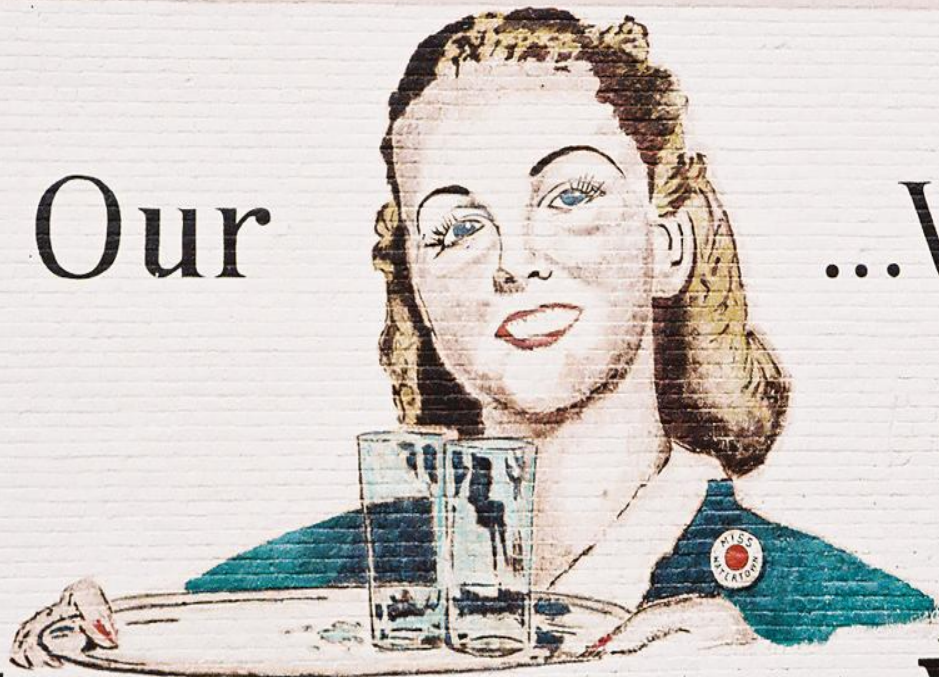
Digging into Rain Gardens



Produced by University of Wisconsin - Extension
& Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

It's Our

...Water



Watertown, Wis.

A photograph of a body of water, likely a lake or sea, under a cloudy sky. The water is dark blue with small waves. The sky is filled with white and grey clouds, with some light breaking through. The text "Rain, Rain Go Away!" is overlaid in the center in a white, bold, sans-serif font.

Rain, Rain Go Away!

And here it does ...



into the earth where ...



... it replenishes our
natural waterways.



A photograph of a residential street scene. In the foreground, a black mailbox stands on a grassy area next to a paved road. The road curves to the right. In the background, there are trees, a yellow diamond-shaped road sign, and a house. The text "Rain falls on our roadways, parking lots & roofs" is overlaid in white on the image.

Rain falls on
our roadways,
parking lots & roofs









And with each rain “runoff”,
organic matter, soil, fertilizer,
oil and chemicals get added
to our lakes and streams.





...and insects, the base of the food chain



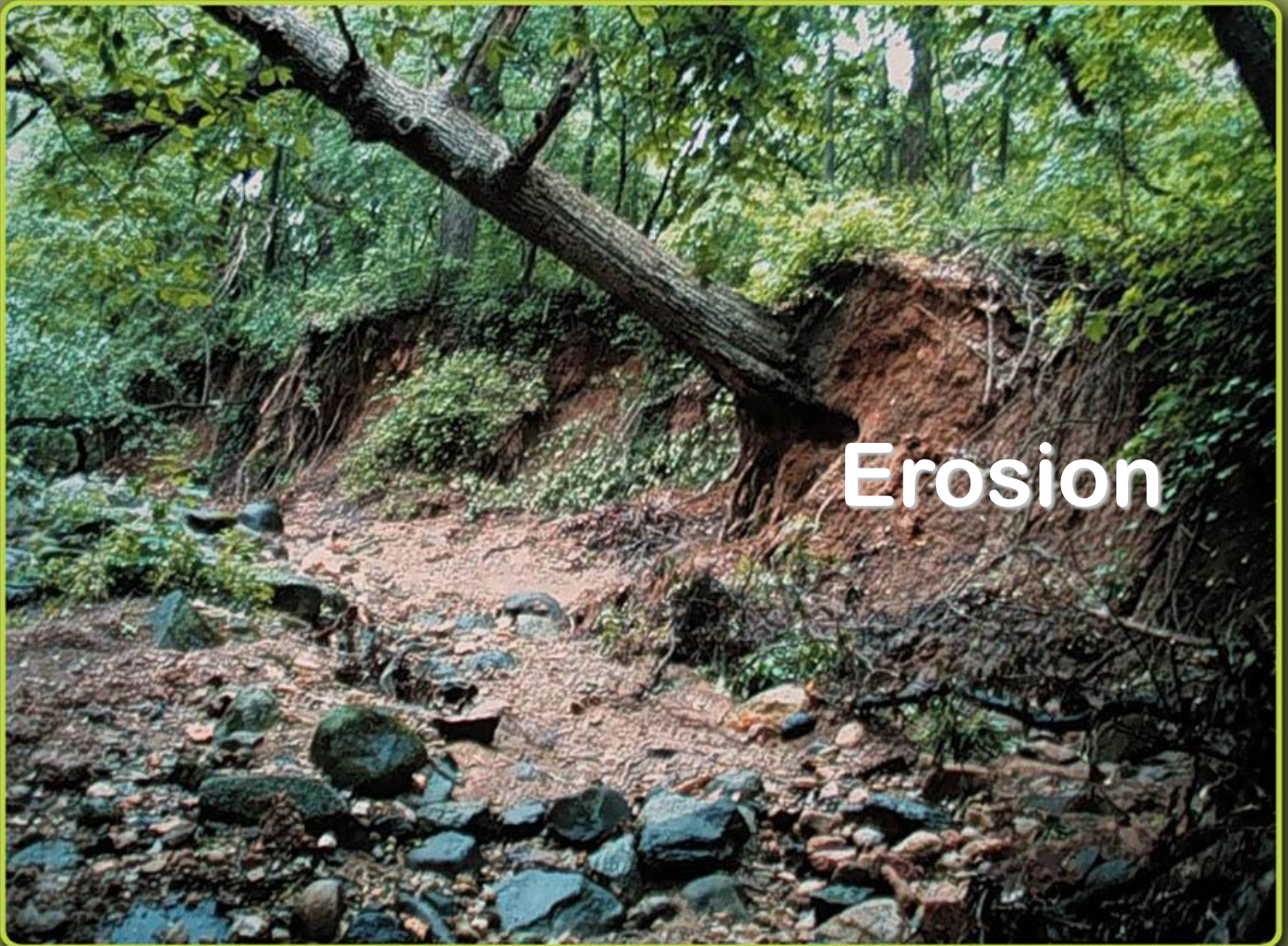




**Water emerges at high velocity
through stormsewer systems**



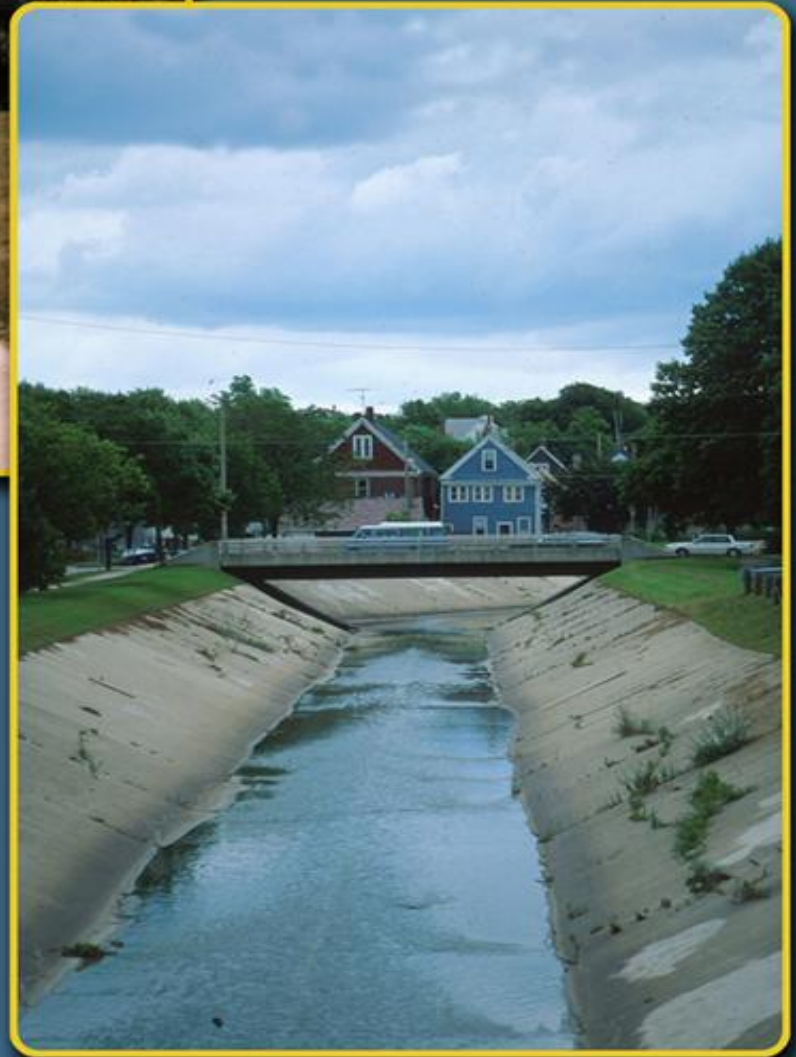
Flash Floods

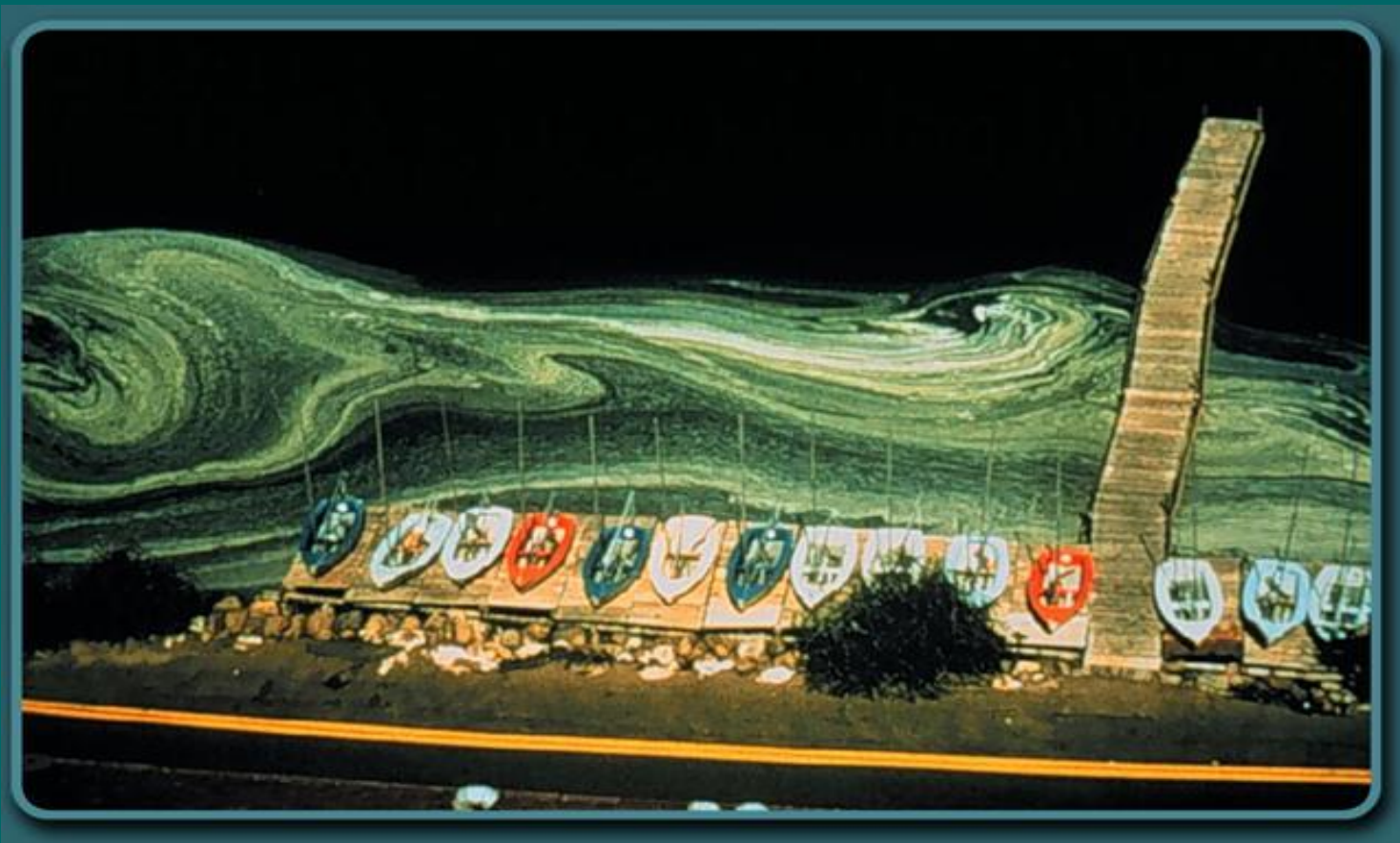


Erosion



Engineered Waterways





Water based tourism brings
Wisconsin \$12 - \$15 billion
dollars every year

Quality of Life:

Community gathering
Sense of place
Personal recreation



Projected Increase in Urban Runoff for Lake Mendota (from 2000-2020)

Amounts of
Urban Runoff
for 2000

5,600,000,000
Gallons

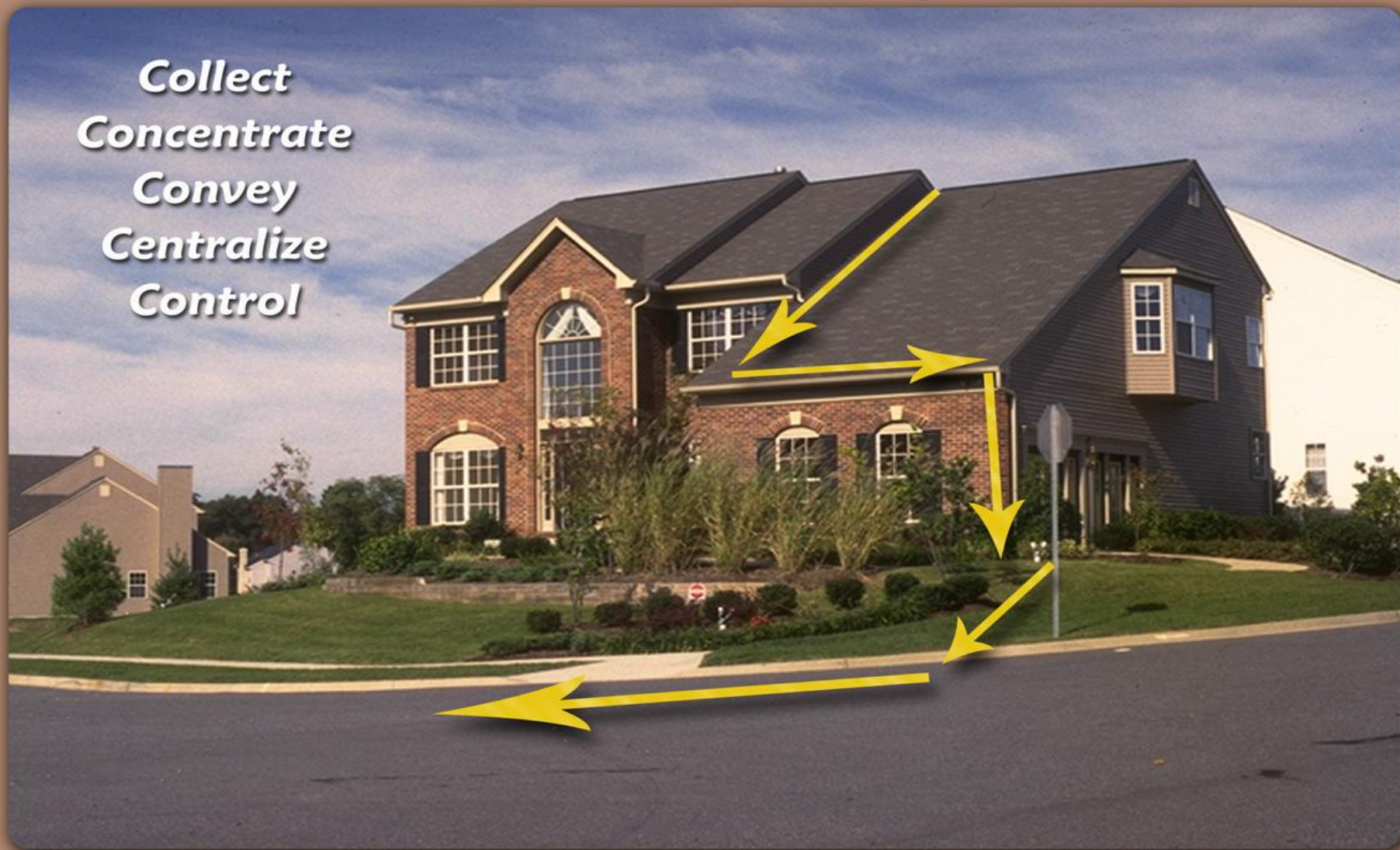
Amounts of
Urban Runoff
for 2020

8,800,000,000
Gallons

An Increase of 57%

The Problem: Typical site design

***Collect
Concentrate
Convey
Centralize
Control***



Traditional Drainage

What's the Answer?







We Call Them Rain Gardens

- Helps to protect & restore natural hydrology
- Allows rain to soak into the ground
- Intercepts pollutants

Attracts Birds & Butterflies





Attractive addition to property,
enhancing beauty of community







- **Sunken garden**
- **4-6 inches deep with a flat bottom**
- **Normally 1/3 the size of area draining to it**
- **Formal or informal**

Value of Using Native Plants

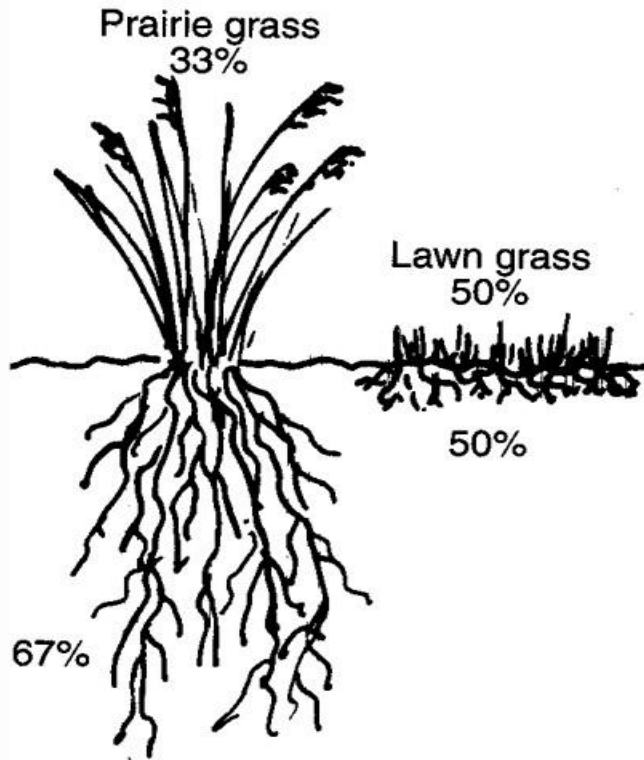
Deeper roots -
absorbs more water

Uses no fertilizer

Uses little or no
pesticides

Easy maintenance after
first year

Does not require
watering after
establishment

















Willy Street Co-
Op, Madison





Bioinfiltration Cells - An Engineered Rain Garden





UWEX - Jefferson County





THANK YOU!
for more information:
clean-water.uwex.edu/pubs

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