

Water Reuse Fact Sheet

Water reuse applications include reuse of reclaimed municipal wastewater, stormwater reuse, rainwater harvesting (from roofs) and reuse of graywater. Some examples of water reuse are outlined below.

Reclaimed Municipal Wastewater

Reclaimed municipal wastewater is wastewater that has been treated to meet specific water quality criteria with the intent of being used for a range of purposes. Minnesota reclaimed wastewater projects include use for golf course irrigation, building toilet flush water, wetland enhancement, energy plant cooling water, and non-food crop agricultural irrigation.¹ The Mankato power plant is one example. The city provides up to 6.2 million gallons per day of reclaimed water to the Mankato Energy Center.² Instead of drawing on additional groundwater sources, the Mankato plant is reusing water that has already been withdrawn, used, and treated.



Mankato Water Reclamation Facility



Target Field

Stormwater Reuse

Stormwater reuse is the collection and use of stormwater runoff that is reclaimed for specific, direct, and beneficial uses. Target Field, home of the Minnesota Twins, collects stormwater in a 200,000 gallon cistern under the warning track. This water is treated and used to irrigate the ball field, reducing city water use by 2 million gallons per year.³ Another example comes from the City of Saint Anthony Village, which captures stormwater from city streets, treats it and then uses it for irrigating the St. Anthony City Hall campus and municipal park, saving the city about 4.6 million gallons of water per year.⁴



Schaar's Bluff Gathering Center

Rainwater Harvesting

Rainwater harvesting captures precipitation from roofs for later use. The Schaar's Bluff Gathering Center in Dakota County utilizes rainwater harvesting for toilet flushing, reducing water use.⁵

Graywater Reuse

Graywater includes waste water from bathtubs, showers, bathroom wash basins, clothes washing machines, and laundry tubs. It does not include waste water from kitchen sinks, dishwashers, or laundry water from soiled diapers. One possible use for graywater is to provide drip irrigation for landscape plants.

¹ 2012 Guidelines for Water Reuse. 2012. *U.S. Environmental Protection Agency*. Accessed August 29, 2014 from <http://nepis.epa.gov/Adobe/PDF/P100FS7K.pdf>, Ch. 1, pg. 4

² 2012 Guidelines for Water Reuse. 2012. *U.S. Environmental Protection Agency*. Accessed August 29, 2014 from <http://nepis.epa.gov/Adobe/PDF/P100FS7K.pdf>, Ch. 5, pg. 28

³ Stormwater Reuse Guide. 2011. *Metropolitan Council*. Accessed September 2, 2014 from <http://www.metrocouncil.org/Wastewater-Water/Planning/Water-Supply-Planning/Stormwater-Reuse-Guide-Tools-zipped-file.aspx>, Ch. Case Studies, pg. 6-7

⁴ Stormwater Reuse Guide. 2011. *Metropolitan Council*. Accessed September 2, 2014 from <http://www.metrocouncil.org/Wastewater-Water/Planning/Water-Supply-Planning/Stormwater-Reuse-Guide-Tools-zipped-file.aspx>, Ch. Case Studies, pg. 4-5

⁵ Schaar's Bluff Gathering Center. 2014. Dakota County, Minnesota. Accessed September 3, 2014 from <https://www.co.dakota.mn.us/Environment/Sustainability/Pages/schaars-bluff-sustainable-features.aspx>