

The greening of the Green Line

Green infrastructure along the Green Line treats stormwater and adds beauty to University Avenue in Saint Paul.

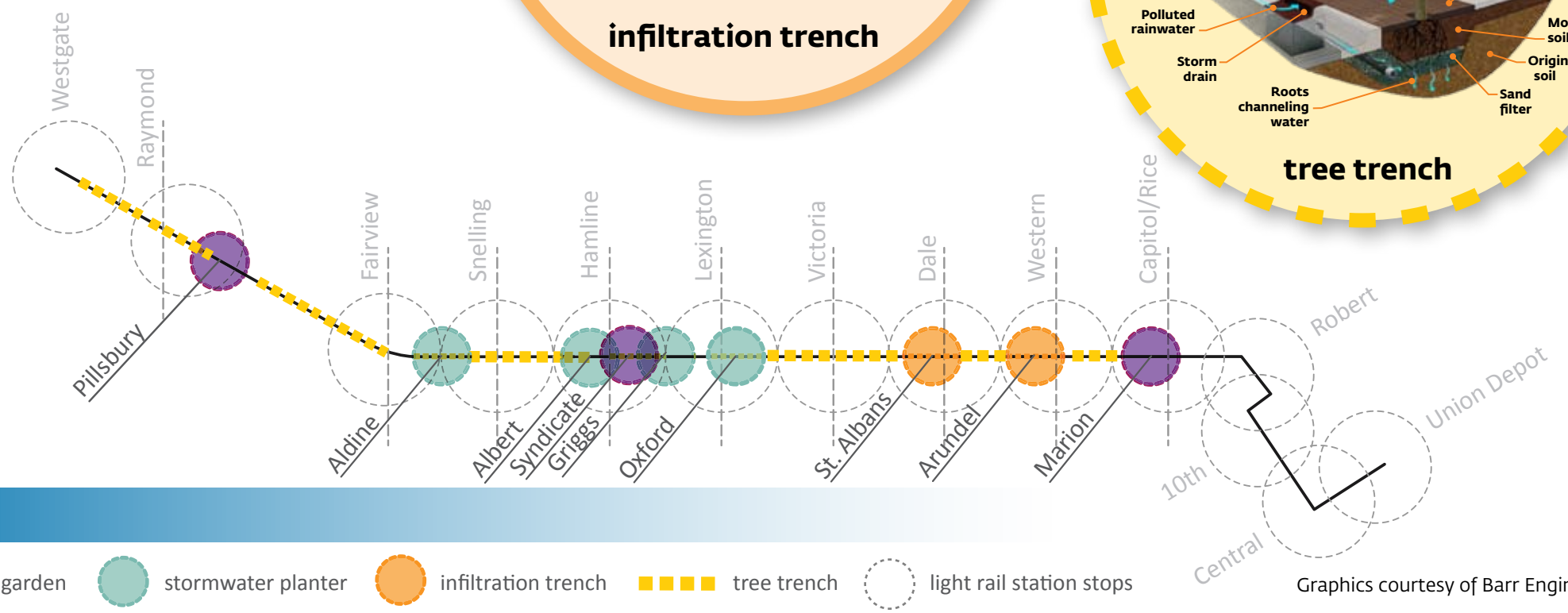
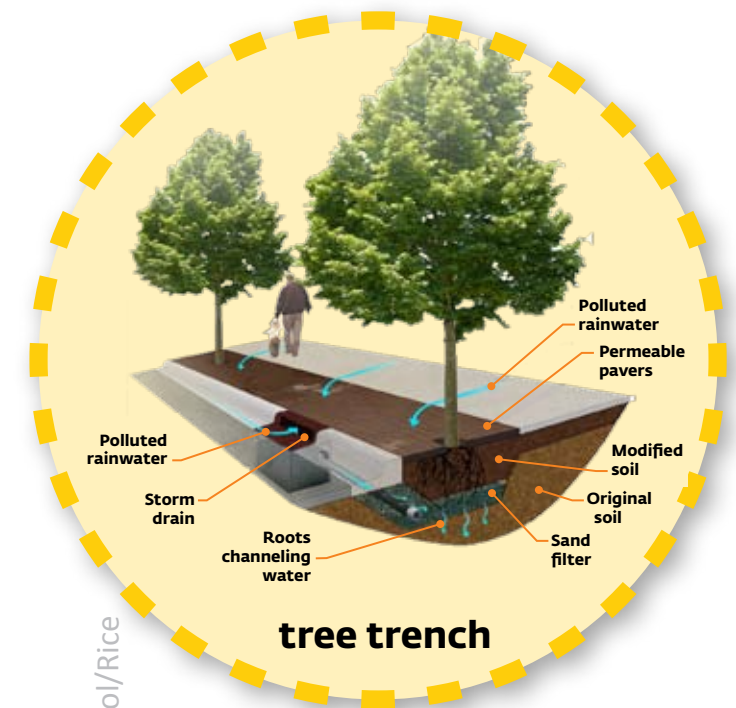
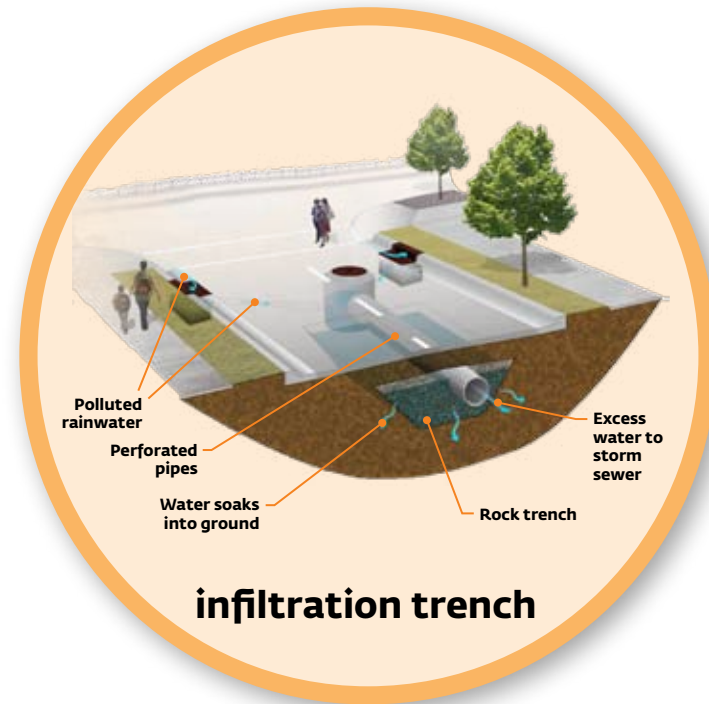
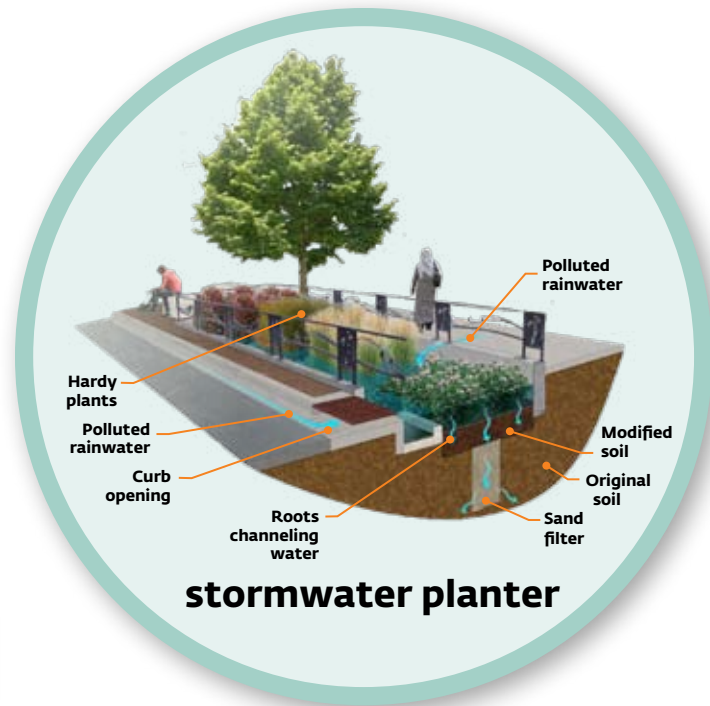
What's Green Infrastructure?

A stormwater management approach that uses natural landscape features and hydrologic processes to treat stormwater by infiltrating or reusing runoff. Green Infrastructure can also help meet other environmental goals such as carbon sequestration, reductions in urban heat island effect, improved air quality, improved wildlife habitat and increased opportunities for outdoor recreation.

Green infrastructure practices were installed along University Avenue and adjacent streets along portions of the light rail running through Saint Paul. The drainage area is 111 acres of highly developed land with large tracts of industrial, commercial and residential areas. The high amount of impervious surfaces direct large amounts of stormwater runoff and pollutants to the storm drain system and ultimately the Mississippi River. Four types of practices are used to improve water quality and control runoff volume along the light rail project area.

- **Rain gardens** were constructed in the boulevard on four side streets by CRWD.
- Five side streets have **stormwater planters** in the boulevard constructed by CRWD.
- Two side streets have **infiltration trenches** constructed by the City of Saint Paul.
- Over five miles of **tree trench** with over 1,000 trees was constructed by Metropolitan Council on both sides of University Avenue in Saint Paul.

It is estimated that the project reduces stormwater runoff by more than 50%, and removes 80 pounds of phosphorus and 40,000 pounds of sediment annually.



Graphics courtesy of Barr Engineering Co.

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Syndicate Street rain garden



Oxford Street stormwater planters

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Project partners

Metropolitan Council
Ramsey County
City of Saint Paul

Project cost

Approximately \$5,000,000

Grant funding

MN Clean Water Legacy Fund

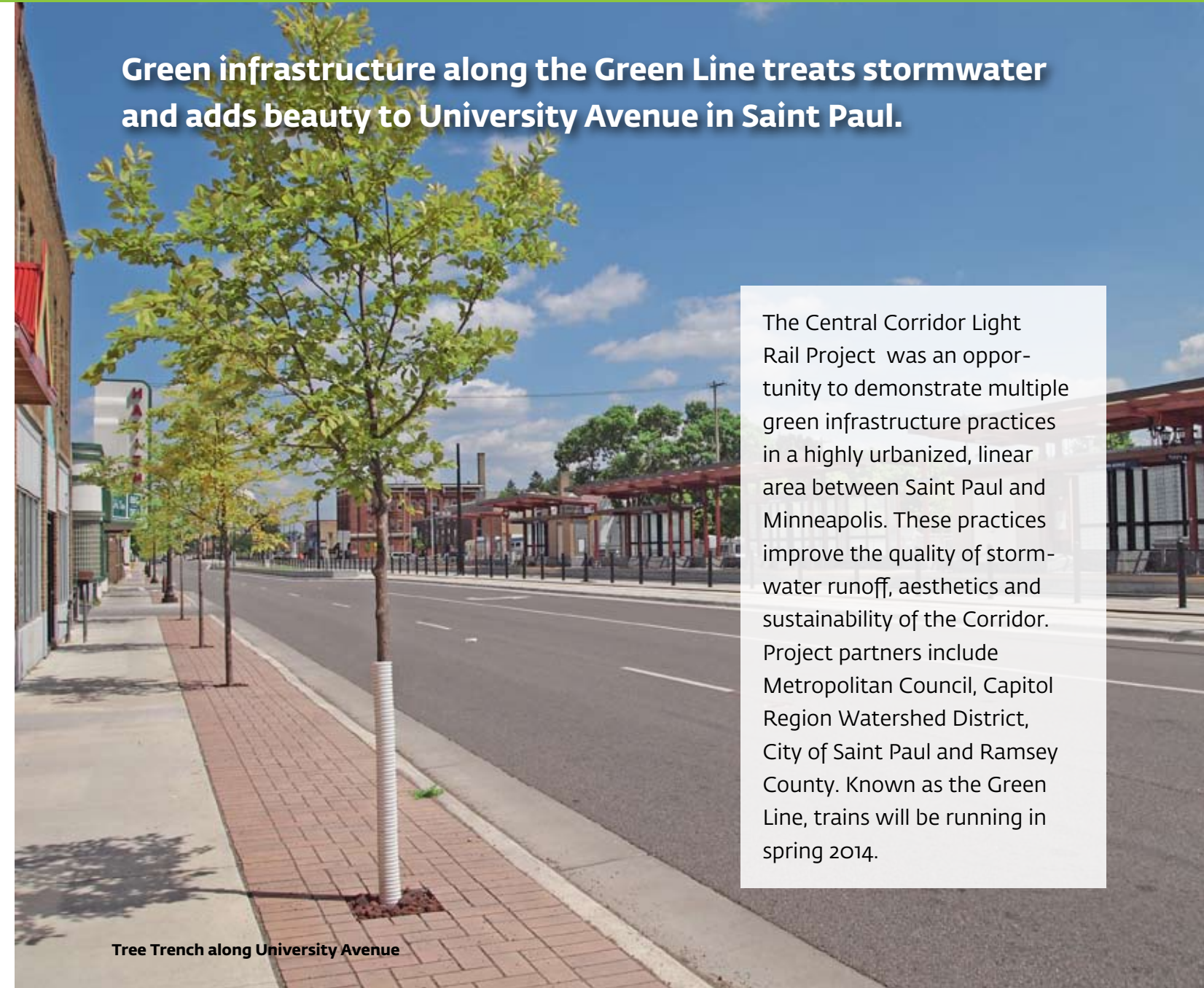
Resources

CRWD: capitolregionwd.org
Met Council: metro council.org
City of Saint Paul: stpaul.gov
Ramsey County: co.ramsey.mn.us
MN Clean Water Legacy Fund:
bwsr.state.mn.us/cleanwaterfund/



To draw public attention to the practices, the work of metal artist Lisa Elias is featured.

Elias created artistic railings that can be seen around the stormwater planters and rain gardens.



Tree Trench along University Avenue

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The Central Corridor Light Rail Project was an opportunity to demonstrate multiple green infrastructure practices in a highly urbanized, linear area between Saint Paul and Minneapolis. These practices improve the quality of stormwater runoff, aesthetics and sustainability of the Corridor. Project partners include Metropolitan Council, Capitol Region Watershed District, City of Saint Paul and Ramsey County. Known as the Green Line, trains will be running in spring 2014.

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