

# Aquascapes Native Green Roof Design and Installation

Aquascapes Corporate Headquarters  
St. Charles, Illinois  
Project Initiation Date: March 2004  
Project Size: 132,000 Square Feet

## Project Goals

- More effectively manage stormwater runoff by capturing and holding rain water on rooftops for use by native plants

## Project Results

- Aquascapes' Corporate Headquarters is one of the largest known single-slant green roofs in the United States' Midwest, and the only one known to be planted completely with native species.



## Project Statement

Prior to this installation project, AES contractors completed comprehensive safety training to comply with constructing this green roof. At Aquascapes' new corporate headquarters, AES contractors worked with Artisan Design Build and Tricon to design a site-wide alternative stormwater management system that harvests, cleanses and infiltrates stormwater generated by parking lots, driveways and rooftops. Both the formal landscape and green roof are planted with native species that were found historically in northern Illinois. The 132,000 sq. ft. green roof consists of a completely native plant palette with a diverse array of blooming wildflowers and grasses. Local jurisdictional requirements state that only 10% of stormwater generated is allowed to be discharged from the site, so the green roof was constructed as part of a system of best management practices (BMP) to help contribute to overall stormwater management on the property. Other BMPs include porous pavement, naturalized bioretention areas and native landscaping.

Artisan and AES worked to help visually relate the green roof to the overall landscape design, unifying it with other landscape elements. In the deliberate slope of the roof, along with adjacent prairie-vegetated naturalized swales, the dry-prairie plant selections help carry the same naturalized and freeform look of the green roof prairie into the landscape, creating a sense that both the building and landscape combine to form one unifying design. AES specified over 40 native plant species for the green roof; these plants are adapted to tough growing conditions such as rocky hilltops and slopes in southern Wisconsin and Northern Illinois, and will survive on only 3.5" of soil with short-term irrigation during establishment and an occasional watering during extremely droughty periods. Use of both seeds and plants will help provide a quickly vegetated native plant composition while controlling costs on the expansive rooftop.

## Current Status

At Aquascapes Corporate Headquarters, AES planning was completed in early 2005, installation of native Taylor Creek Nursery plants took place in the summer of 2006.

