Clean water projects at Springboard for the Arts collect, filter and reuse over 200,000 gallons of runoff to prevent pollution from reaching the river each year.

Polluted rainwater from half of the parking lot flows into the rain garden in front of you. Rain gardens collect water and allow it to slowly soak into the ground. As water soaks in, dirt, nutrients, bacteria, and other pollutants are removed. Deep-rooted, native plants also provide habitat for wildlife such as birds, bees and butterflies.

Excess water from the rain garden and the rest of the parking lot flows into a 6-inch pipe beneath the lawn. The pipe is punched with thousands of holes so water can slowly soak into the ground.

Walk Quietly
by Sharon M. Day (Ojibwe)

If we can we slow down
Walk quietly
Speak silently to the spirit of the water
If we can participate in ceremony daily
It becomes part of our being
Our conscious and subconscious
If we can disconnect from the harsh news of the day
Focus on the mist in the air at daybreak
Our voices rise together
To greet the sun
As we hold our asemas
And sing to the four directions
ni maa Aki and all that there is
If we can slow down or withdraw slightly from our interactions with the world around us
We hasten our brain functionality, our capacity to feel and care for others
Including the flowers, the butterflies, the birds, and our spiritual growth accelerates
If our spiritual growth is a communal process
Our collective physical, emotional and spiritual growth is accelerated as we walk up and down the hills and byways along the river carrying the water or the staff and especially if our physical self is taxed in this process.
If the hills are larger, our tendency is to move faster and as we approach the confluence, we run, run, run. Together we grow, we grow, we grow!