Rainwater and snowmelt from the southern half of the roof flow into this 3,400-gallon cistern. The water is filtered and used to irrigate the lawn and gardens.

Excess water from the cistern and the rest of the roof 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.

The water is cleaned as it moves through the layers of soil before making its way to the Mississippi River.

HELP REDUCE RUNOFF AT HOME!
Install a rain barrel, add permeable pavers, or redirect your downspouts to green space.

Excerpt from
*Song of the Blackstone Pipe: We are the River*
by Louis Alemayehu

That muddy, muddy Brown River,  
Mighty Mississippi River  
Of all humanity  
We  
Are the River.  
With love all our Rivers,  
Twine and flow,  
Gather and grow,  
Into a great, great River  
And then empties into the Sea...  
Where our journey just began,  
Where our journeys never end,  
We are a River,  
Rising up,  
Like a Green Water Creature  
All dripping with seaweed  
To kiss the Flaming Flower  
And then rain, rain, rain,  
Didn’t rain my children?  
Didn’t it rain,  
Rain,  
Rain?  
Didn’t it rain my children,  
Didn’t it rain, rain,  
Raaaaaaaiin?