THE OHIO STREET PROJECT

The Ohio Street project was the first of many RebuildIndy projects that featured sustainable infrastructure in 2010. The neighborhood was plagued by crumbling sidewalks, deteriorating streets and drainage concerns for decades. The Ohio Street project, which relied on neighborhood partnerships with Cole Noble District Neighborhood Association, Indianapolis Downtown Inc., The Nature Conservancy and the Buchanan Group, drastically improved the quality of life for the residents and diverted an estimated 1.3 million gallons of storm water from the combined sewer system annually.

The Ohio Street project included resurfacing from West Street to College Avenue and replacement of deteriorated sidewalks and curbs using sustainable porous concrete. Rain gardens were also installed to improve drainage in the area. Portions of Ohio Street suffered continued pavement degradation from poor drainage and subsequent freeze-thaw on the surface. The soil types of the project site were ideal for infiltration, creating a situation well suited for the use of porous concrete sidewalks. The drainage improvements diverted 90% of the annual rainfall volume from the eastern most portion of the Ohio Street watershed area.

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE ELEMENTS:

POROUS CONCRETE

Porous pavement allows water to pass through its surface and sub-base for infiltration into the soil below. These pavements provide the same structural support of conventional pavement. The Ohio Street project included:

- 222 square yards of porous concrete street
- 873 square yards of porous sidewalks
- 440.5 linear feet of porous materials in curb and gutters

RAIN GARDENS

Rain gardens are effective in removing up to 90 percent of chemicals and up to 80 percent of sediments from storm water runoff, allowing 30 percent more water to soak into the ground than traditional lawns. The Ohio Street project included 781 square feet of rain gardens space.