

# News

Macomb County  
Office of Public Affairs



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Contact: Phil Frame  
Office of Public Affairs  
586-469-7239  
[phil.frame@macombcountymi.gov](mailto:phil.frame@macombcountymi.gov)

## **Macomb County completes environmentally friendly parking lot**

MOUNT CLEMENS, Mich. – Macomb County completed an addition to its Administration Building parking lot with cutting edge features that will serve as an example of environmentally friendly construction for future county projects and local municipalities.

The completion of the low-impact designed parking lot is part of a larger county effort to meet the federally mandated Phase II EPA standards for holding and filtering stormwater. Under these restrictions, all stormwater must be contained and filtered on site.

“Most people will look at the site and think it’s just another parking lot,” said Gerry Santoro, environmental planner for the Macomb County Department of Planning & Economic Development. “It’s a glimpse into the future of environmentally friendly construction and I’m glad Macomb County is leading the way by providing an example for others to follow.”

The new parking lot boasts environmental features including five “rain gardens,” about 250 feet of “bio-swales” and slotted curbs to control the flow of stormwater on and under the parking lot.

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Rain gardens are small groupings of native vegetation that absorb, hold and filter rainwater instead of allowing it to simply flow into a storm drain. The rain gardens will use plants indigenous to Michigan and will eventually require little or no maintenance or watering.

Encircling the site are the bio-swales. These essentially are gently sloping ditches that prevent stormwater from leaving the site while providing additional filtration. Stormwater is directed to the bio-swales and rain gardens by slotted curbs and the slope of the parking lot pavement.

The new lot adds 115 parking spaces, including four handicapped spaces, on the site of the former Bell Fork Lift building immediately south of the existing Administration Building parking lot.

Macomb's efforts to meet the Phase II requirements is just one example of the county's efforts to keep its waterways clean. Another major program in this effort is an "Environmental Toolbox" developed by the county's Department of Planning & Economic Development.

The "toolbox" is a collection of the county's environmental information which helps developers, citizens and municipalities to find information on environmentally friendly construction methods. It also will assist in the application of environmental ordinances, help with short- and long-term land use planning, and serve as a tool for parks and recreation planning and conservation efforts.

For more information call 586-469-5285 or visit [www.macombcountymi.gov/gis/maps.htm](http://www.macombcountymi.gov/gis/maps.htm).

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