Is This Normal?
The Uptown Normal Circle and Streetscape
Normal, IL
A NON-TECHNICAL REVIEW OF A FASCINATING URBAN REDESIGN THAT WORKS

Humbly Submitted by:
Gary Johnson
University of Minnesota
Department of Forest Resources
johns054@umn.edu
July 12, 2014 – 5+ Inches of Rain
Hours Later –
Streets and Sidewalks Are Dry
No Debris on Pavement
Life Above Ground Is Normal...
Because Below Ground It Isn’t
Normal, Illinois
Normal, Illinois

• In 1857, “Normal” University Established
• Now Home to Illinois State University
• 17 Square Miles
• Permanent Population of 52,500
• Three Colleges & Universities
• Sustainable & Vibrant Uptown District
Uptown Normal - Before
Uptown Normal - Before
Uptown Normal - Before
Uptown Normal – The Vision
The Centerpiece – The Uptown Circle
The Centerpiece Today
Centerpiece – Larger Scale & “Watershed”
The Uptown Circle Under Construction
The Centerpiece Watershed Today
The Centerpiece Watershed Today
Functions of the Uptown Circle

• 58,806 sq. ft. of Street Surface Drains Into Cistern
• 1,442,866 Gallons of Water Annually Into Cistern
• Functions As Source of Fountains and Irrigation Water
• Saves City $7,683/Year In Potable Water
Functional Beauty
Collateral Collections
Collateral Collection Systems
Do The Sidewalk Systems Work?

- 58,751 sq. ft. Sidewalks Drain Into Suspended Pavement System
- 40,200 cu. ft. Soil In Suspended Pavement Cache
- Captures 1,441,516 Gallons Water Annually
- Irrigation For Plants
Trees and Groundcovers

- 67 Trees
- Oaks, Elms, Planetrees, Maples
- Organic Mulches
So, Is It Working After Five Years?
For More Detailed Information...

**Uptown Normal Circle and Streetscape – Normal, IL**

**Methodology for Landscape Performance Benefits**

**Environmental**

- Saves $7,600 annually in potable water costs by capturing 1.4 million gallons of stormwater from a 58,800 sf area and reusing it in the water feature and for irrigation.

The surface area which drains into the 75,000 gallon underground cistern (parts of Constitution Trail and East Beaufort Street) is 58,806 square feet (as provided by Hoerr Schaudt). Multiplying this area by average annual rainfall in feet provides an approximation of the volume of water collected in the cistern each year. This is also the number of gallons prevented from entering the storm sewer system each year. The NOAA’s National Climatic Data Center (NCDC) 1981-2010 Climate Normals show that the average annual precipitation at Normal, IL (station number USC00116200) is 39.34 inches (ftp://ftp.ncdc.noaa.gov/pub/data/normals/1981-2010/products/station/USC00124244.normals.txt, retrieved 7-21-2011 by Robin L. Burke). Monetary savings of $5.40 per 1,000 gallons (the price of potable water in Normal, IL) are
Gary Johnson
University of Minnesota
Department of Forest Resources
April 15, 2015

THE END