



State of Illinois
Pat Quinn, Governor

Illinois Department of Transportation
Gary Hannig, Secretary

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Dixon – IDOT District 2 is in the process of implementing a pilot program of installing rain barrels at select rest areas and welcome centers throughout the district. Turtle Creek Welcome Center has been chosen as the first facility in which the rain barrels will be installed. They will be accompanied by two large informational displays that will be placed inside the Welcome Center.

Rain barrels have become more popular as people throughout America become aware of the importance of “Going Green”. Rain barrels offer a number of sustainability benefits that include:

- Reduction of the volume of water flowing to sewer treatment facilities
- Lowers the percentage of roof top rainfall as a component of urban runoff
- Used as a backup source of water during times of drought
- Helps to keep our creeks clean
- Rain water is naturally softened water; which is great for use in watering plants, window washing and auto cleaning
- Saves money by lowering your water bill
- Reduces the need for additional tax dollars earmarked for sewer expansion
- Chlorine free water helps maintain a healthy biotic community in the soil
- Rain barrels can serve as an educational tool for teaching residents about water conservation



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IDOT has members on Governor Quinn's Green Government Coordinating Council. During one of the Council meetings, it was agreed that rest areas would be ideal locations for the implementation of rain barrels. IDOT is obtaining the rain barrels from the Illinois Department of Corrections Industries.

Illinois Growth Enterprises (IGE) is on contract to maintain and staff the Turtle Creek Welcome Center. Doug Van Scoy, Director of IGE's Environmental Services Division, was interested to hear about the rain barrel pilot project. Turtle Creek has been extremely active in implementing Green cleaning practices by using micro-fiber cleaning technology as well as bio-renewable cleaners that are safer for personal health and better for the environment. Turtle Creek Welcome Center is in the process of obtaining ISSA CIMS certification. "We are excited to support IDOT's choice to install rain barrels at Turtle Creek Rest Area. We look forward to working together to make Turtle Creek a model sustainable facility." IDOT has also created informational placards to inform visitors to the rest area of the benefits of Green bio-renewable cleaners.

IDOT also plans on installing rain barrels at the Willow Creek and Krisdala Baka Rest Areas this summer. District 3, based in Ottawa, IL, has ordered a number of rain barrels for certain rest areas as well.

"This is just another step IDOT is taking on the road to sustainability," said IDOT District 2 Community Relations Manager Dominic Meneghetti.

