



“First of Its Kind in Omaha”

Most of us think of pollution as being caused by oil, grease, and toxic chemical spills. Most of us don't connect it to interstate, city street, and parking lot runoff.

A part of the remaking of Rockbrook Village® has been to pay attention to Rockbrook Creek that flows through our property. The creek fills with water from the west and the interstate as well as the 13 acres of parking lots in Rockbrook Village®.

Our task was to see if Rockbrook Village® could play a part in cleaning up its runoff. This resulted in a cooperative effort between **Keep Omaha Beautiful, Inc.**, the **Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality** and the design engineers who rebuilt the Rockbrook Creek north of the Village.

The cooperative effort became the first non-point source pollution project of its kind in Omaha in connection with runoff for a commercial shopping center.

The project is now done. It included the construction and installation of the following features:

- A wetland pond that will receive run off from Rockbrook Village® to facilitate settling and clearing before the water flows downstream.
- Three gravel, grit, oil, and water separating manholes that will separate debris so that

undesired items are isolated and discarded from the running water.

Educational Component, Too

The neighborhood and area schools were involved in learning about the problems affecting water in Nebraska. This included:



1. **Rockbrook Elementary School.**

Nearly 100 fifth and sixth graders learned about all aspects of the project, through six weeks of presentations by professionals involved in the project; and

2. **Prairie Lane Elementary School.**

These students learned about the role wetlands play in the health of our environment. Sixth graders picked up nearly thirty bags of trash from a wetland area just west of I-680; and

(continued on back page)



The New Rockbrook Creek

(continued from front page)

3. **Mary Our Queen Elementary School.**

Fifth graders learned about sustainable landscaping and types of plants that prevent soil erosion; and

4. **Paddock Road Elementary School.**

These students learned about wetlands; and

5. **Oakdale Elementary School.**

Oakdale Elementary School will work on a Certificate of Achievement with the National Wildlife Federation for Rockbrook Creek area.

One parcel of real estate cannot materially contribute to stopping pollution of waterways, stores, rivers, and the ocean.

But . . . if Rockbrook Village® and its neighborhood do their best to keep pollutants out of the storm sewers, and off the streets and parking lots . . . it will help.