

# More than a pretty picture

With planning and skill, below the surface of those lushly planted landscapes are intricate systems to manage water and create long-term sustainability.

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In sustainable landscaping, sometimes what you don't see matters most.

The mechanics of saving and reusing what would otherwise be rainwater runoff may be buried underground, providing irrigation for plants and trees, or heating and cooling for homes or commercial buildings. A winding channel that guides water to a rain garden can create an underground water source for deep-rooted plants and trees. Careful planning and planting can even eliminate the need to rake leaves.

**TOP:** The tennis court of this Summit Avenue home in St. Paul houses 32 geothermal wells.

**CENTER:** An Eden Prairie spa's water-saving solutions also helped create a serene experience for guests.

**BOTTOM:** A hillside home in St. Paul uses a series of swales to turn the yard into lush greenscape.

