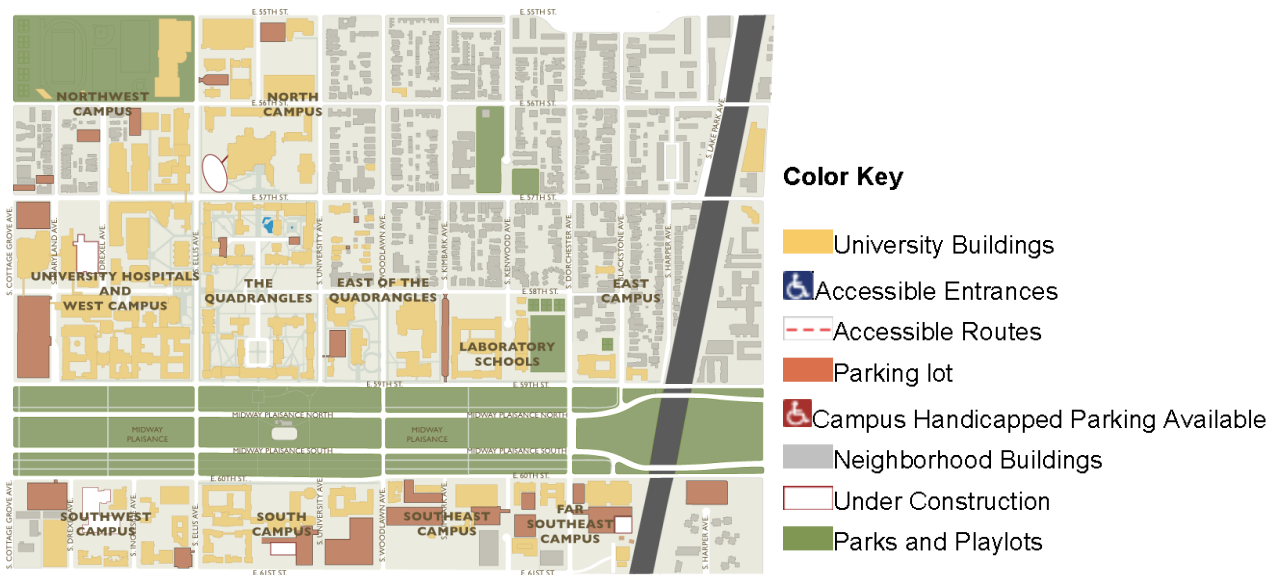


Storm Water Reclamation and Reuse

The University of Chicago is an urban campus. The main campus is a continuous plot of land approximately 200 acres. About 50% of the campus is green space consisting of parks and lawns; the other 50% is covered by concrete sidewalks, buildings, parking lots and roadways.

Being a purist, we want to reclaim 100% of the storm water that does not get directly absorbed into the green space. We want to collect this water at a centralized location, treat it and re-use it for non-potable applications such as irrigation, cooling towers on campus etc.

Chicago has an average monthly rainfall of about 4" per month in the non-winter months. In one month, how much water could you reclaim?



Something to think about...

Chicago generally receives around 45 inches of rain a year; however, this is not distributed evenly across seasons. Some months may get heavy rainfall while others do not. What has to be taken into consideration when designing some type of storm water detention system like the one above? Think through and list the pros and cons of this approach. Is this practical in a developed urban setting?