

Green Infrastructure Funds Available in NY State

FACT SHEET #2:

What types of Green Wet Weather Infrastructure projects qualify for Federal Stimulus Funding?

The federal economic recovery plan, “American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009” (ARRA), requires that 20% of State Revolving Fund monies be used for green infrastructure, water efficiency, innovative water quality improvements, decentralized wastewater treatment, stormwater runoff mitigation, and energy efficiency.

“Green Wet Weather Infrastructure” includes a variety of practices at various scales that manage and treat stormwater and that maintain and restore natural hydrology by infiltrating, capturing and reusing stormwater, or by enhancing evapotranspiration. This fact sheet provides examples of green wet weather infrastructure projects that qualify for funding, based upon available federal and state guidance.

What Size of Project is Eligible?

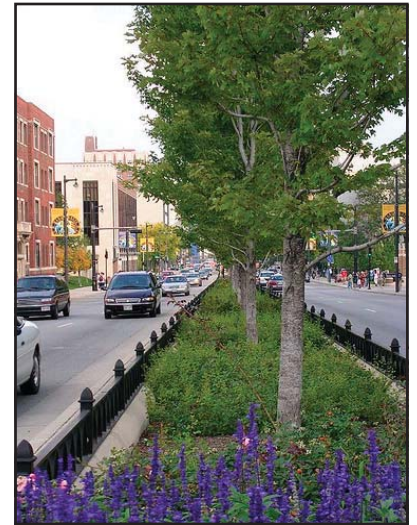
Under the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF), both regional and local scale projects qualify for Green Project Reserve funding. On a regional scale, green infrastructure includes restoration of natural landscape features, such as forests, floodplains and wetlands. On the local scale, green infrastructure includes site- and neighborhood-specific practices, such as stormwater infiltration, bioretention, planting trees, green roofs, porous pavement and rainwater harvesting systems (like cisterns), and other practices.

In the context of the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF), green infrastructure consists of site-specific practices, such as green roofs and porous pavement at drinking water utility facilities.

What are Green Wet Weather Infrastructure Practices?

Green Streets Projects

A Green Streets Program is a combination of green infrastructure practices in transportation rights-of-way, which can be applied to new development, redevelopment or retrofits. Green Streets projects can be as simple as retrofits to capture and treat street runoff using infiltration practices. A comprehensive green street project could include stormwater street planters between the sidewalk and the curb, stormwater curb extensions that transform the curb lane into a landscaped area, or rain gardens implemented on a neighborhood or community-wide scale.



Wet Weather Management Systems for Parking Areas and Other Impervious Surfaces

Under the CWSRF, funding is available for implementation of wet weather management systems for parking or other impervious areas. DWSRF funds can also be used if the site is part of a drinking water facility. These systems must mimic natural hydrology and reduce effective imperviousness of the site.

Examples of specific practices include:

Bioretention: Bioretention areas are engineered landscaping features designed to treat stormwater runoff, and can be installed in parking lot islands and landscaped buffer areas. Surface runoff is directed into landscaped areas and is filtered and infiltrated through the mulch and soil in the system. Rain gardens are one type of bioretention practice.

Porous Pavement: Porous pavement is a permeable pavement surface with an underlying stone reservoir that temporarily stores surface runoff before it infiltrates into the subsoil. Porous pavement is ideal for low traffic or overflow parking areas. Funding is available for the incremental cost of installing pervious pavement in a parking lot in place of conventional pavement.



Green Roofs: Green roofs are designed to support plants and mitigate effects on water quality by filtering, absorbing, and detaining rainfall. They can be added to existing structures as a thin vegetated sheath. A more intensive green roof, including trees, walkways, and larger vegetation, can be incorporated into existing or new development that has a roof with adequate structural capacity.



Constructed Wetlands: Constructed wetland systems are engineered marshes designed to manage stormwater and achieve pollutant removal.

Hydromodification to Establish or Restore Riparian Lands

Funding through the CWSRF is available to establish or restore riparian buffers, floodplains, wetlands and other natural features. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is encouraging the use of soft approaches such as revegetation, rather than conventional engineering techniques that harden stream banks like installing rip-rap or concrete channels.

Downspout Disconnection

CWSRF funding is available to implement a downspout disconnection program. Disconnecting downspouts, or roof leaders, diverts stormwater from combined sewers and storm sewers and redirects stormwater to a rainwater capture system, rain garden, rain barrel, or other green infrastructure practice.

Retrofit Programs

CWSRF funding is available to develop and implement comprehensive retrofit programs for existing sewer systems. A stormwater retrofit program should be designed to keep wet weather out of all types of sewer systems using green infrastructure technologies and approaches identified herein.

Urban Forestry Programs

Funding through the CWSRF is available for implementation of comprehensive street tree or urban forestry programs, including expansion of tree box sizes to manage additional stormwater and enhance tree health. Urban forests and street trees act as natural storm water management areas by filtering and absorbing water and enhancing evapotranspiration.

For more information and resources:

<http://hudsonwatershed.org/>

<http://www.nysefc.org/home/index.asp?page=687>

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