

Facilitating Green Infrastructure Opportunities for City-County Collaborative

Green infrastructure (GI) is increasingly of interest to communities looking to reduce the amount of imperviousness of an area by implementing practices that mimic natural processes to address stormwater, flooding, and water quality issues. GI employs such elements as vegetation, soils, and engineered media, and practices such as bioretention areas, vegetated/dry swales, green roofs, porous pavement, stream buffer restoration, and rain garden installations to better manage stormwater that can collect debris, sediments, chemicals, and other pollutants.

Although there are state standards for the development of green infrastructure, communities in New York State lack local guidance specifically focused on retrofits.

To identify and prioritize the information necessary to develop a localized best management practices document that will improve the planning, design, construction, maintenance, and monitoring of green infrastructure retrofits within the City of Rochester and Monroe County, New York Sea Grant helped establish a city-county Green Infrastructure Collaborative.

Facilitating Collaboration

Twenty-nine participants representing city and county staff, leading experts, non-profits, and the private sector participated in a day-long work session in Rochester in 2016. NOAA and New York Sea Grant facilitated the process engaging participants in:

- identifying and discussing City and County needs
- reviewing the Environmental Protection Agency's analysis on flood damages, and
- selecting priority areas for green infrastructure opportunities.

The work session led to a localized GI retrofit design and maintenance standards guidance document, to be completed in 2017, for the City of Rochester and Monroe County.



NOAA and NYSG facilitated a City of Rochester-Monroe County Green Infrastructure Collaborative work day with large and small group sessions to address GI planning, design, construction, maintenance and monitoring opportunities. Photos: Mary Austerman/NYSG

Partners:

- City of Rochester
- Monroe County
- NOAA Office for Coastal Management
- The Association of State Floodplain Managers
- Barton & Loguidice, D.P.A.

The Sea Grant Focus Area for this project is New York Resilient Communities & Economies

New York Sea Grant is a joint program of Cornell University, the State University of New York, and NOAA.

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