



# MAINSTREAMING GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

A program of New Jersey Future



## MAKING GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE THE FIRST CHOICE FOR STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

### WHAT is green infrastructure?

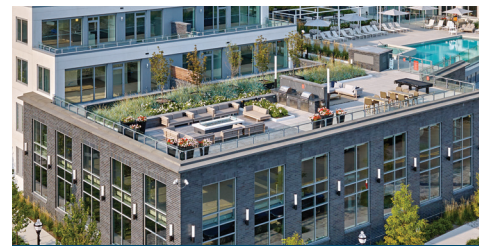
Green infrastructure (GI) is the use of stormwater management practices that use or mimic the natural water cycle, rather than pipes and storm sewers, to manage rain, stormwater, and snowmelt. Green infrastructure enables this water to soak into the ground where it falls or captures it for a beneficial re-use such as irrigation or flushing toilets. Examples include street trees, pervious pavement, rain gardens, rain barrels and cisterns, green roofs, vegetated swales, and bioretention basins. Green infrastructure saves and cleans water, while uninterrupted runoff results in pollution and flooding.



Permeable Pavement



Rain Garden



Green Roof



Cistern



Constructed Wetland



Stormwater Planters

### WHY design projects using green infrastructure?

GI cleans and conserves the world's most precious resource, reduces flooding, improves public health, provides jobs, raises property values, beautifies neighborhoods and downtowns, and supports wildlife.

#### ECONOMY

- Increases property values and rental premiums
- Reduces energy costs
- Enhances curb appeal and increases foot traffic in downtowns
- Creates green jobs
- Takes the pressure off of gray infrastructure
- Can cost less to install and maintain

#### ENVIRONMENT

- Prevents runoff pollution
- Cleans water
- Replenishes groundwater levels
- Cools and cleans the air
- Reduces greenhouse gases
- Restores ecosystems and supports pollinators and other beneficial wildlife

#### SOCIETY

- Provides physical and mental health benefits
- Supports walkable communities
- Aids in traffic calming
- Provides for outdoor recreation and community gardens
- Reduces the effects of excess heat

## HOW is “mainstreaming” happening?

Years ago, green building standards, such as LEED, were considered eccentric and expensive. Now, they are mainstream and understood to be the smart way to build. The same thing is happening with green infrastructure. An important paradigm shift has accelerated the mainstreaming process: the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection updated its stormwater rule, which took effect in March 2021, to mandate the use of green infrastructure to meet the rule’s stormwater management requirements. The implications of this rule change will affect many, but not all, developments. There is more work to be done to promote green infrastructure in order to improve water quality, reduce flood risk, and increase walkability in New Jersey municipalities.

### To ensure successful and widespread implementation of GI, New Jersey Future...

- ➔ **Works with state agencies** to update and improve rules, manuals, standards, programs, and review processes to facilitate GI.
- ➔ **Works with developers** to promote and advance the implementation of GI, and to encourage and assist a group of developers to act as ambassadors to the industry.
- ➔ **Works with towns** to understand local challenges to green infrastructure implementation and develop solutions.

## View and share our GI resource guides for the public and private sectors.



### NEW JERSEY GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE MUNICIPAL TOOLKIT

One-stop green infrastructure resource designed to help municipal leaders and advocates address the related problems of nuisance flooding and polluted waterways. The Toolkit includes detailed information and a variety of tools that cities and towns can use to plan, implement, and sustain green infrastructure in public- and private-sector development projects.

[GIToolkit.NJFuture.org](http://GIToolkit.NJFuture.org)



### NEW JERSEY DEVELOPERS Green Infrastructure GUIDE 2.0

Practical online and in-print guide that breaks down New Jersey’s Stormwater Rule amendments and helps developers and decision-makers understand green infrastructure options (even for challenging sites), advantages, costs, and benefits.

[DEVELOPERSGUIDE.NJFuture.org](http://DevelopersGuide.NJFuture.org)

### WHO ARE THE PARTNERS?

- ➔ Municipalities
- ➔ Regional planning entities
- ➔ Developers
- ➔ Rutgers University
- ➔ Engineers, landscape architects, and planners
- ➔ Nonprofit partners
- ➔ State agencies

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### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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### NEW JERSEY FUTURE

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