



## STATEMENT

### Statement on Changes to Stormwater Rule

16 W. Lafayette St.  
Trenton, NJ 08608  
p: (609) 393-0008  
f: (609) 360-8478  
w: njfuture.org

**December 4, 2019**

**Contact:** [Missy Rebovich](#), Director of Government and Public Affairs, 609-393-0008 x 118

New Jersey Future Director of Green Infrastructure Louise Wilson issued the following statement:

“Today the NJDEP adopted important changes to the rules governing how we manage stormwater in New Jersey by replacing a well-intentioned but subjective and ineffective design standard with a requirement that green stormwater infrastructure be utilized. This change represents an important paradigm shift as the previous rules were not working and we saw pollution and flooding from stormwater runoff getting worse,” said Wilson.

“Green infrastructure uses or mimics the natural water cycle, capturing most rainfall near where it falls--think rain gardens, green roofs, healthy trees along streets-- and enabling it to soak into the ground rather than flow unchecked into the nearest storm drain. The new requirement is not meant to replace traditional gray infrastructure but rather to complement it with green infrastructure to manage the first inch or two of rain. In addition to stormwater management, green infrastructure helps to cool and clean the air, provide habitat for birds and pollinators, and adds economic value. All of these benefits are integral to the overarching statewide and global goal of climate resilience,” said Wilson.

“Municipalities will adopt new stormwater control ordinances and developers will be able to receive appropriate credit for green infrastructure installations-- projects many might have liked to implement in the past, but often abandoned when they wouldn't count toward an important groundwater recharge requirement for stormwater management. New Jersey Future has great resources for municipalities and developers including the [Green Infrastructure Municipal Toolkit](#) and the [Developers' Green Infrastructure Guide](#) which provide thorough, up-to-date information and insight on the regulatory requirements, best practices, and funding sources,” said Wilson.