



# **Municipal Policies to Promote Green Infrastructure**

## **Municipal Facilities**

- Consider retrofitting government buildings with green infrastructure practices
- Utilize green infrastructure in road drainage practices

## **Ensure green infrastructure approach integrated into private development**

- For disturbance >1 acre (>5 acre residential), full SWPPP is required, including post-construction stormwater control
- Chapter 3 of 2010 NYS Stormwater Design Manual:

Planners and designers must address this approach in a five-step process that involves site planning and stormwater management practice (SMP) selection. The five steps include:

  1. site planning to preserve natural features and reduce impervious cover,
  2. calculation of the water quality volume for the site,
  3. incorporation of green infrastructure techniques and standard SMPs with Runoff Reduction Volume (RRv) capacity,
  4. use of standard SMPs, where applicable, to treat the portion of water quality volume not addressed by green infrastructure techniques and standard SMPs with RRv capacity, and
  5. design of volume and peak rate control practices where required.
- Planning Board should be involved in stormwater design

## **Remove barriers to sustainably designed sites**

- Look for items in zoning, subdivision or highway code that might prevent sustainable design – Code & Ordinance Worksheet helpful
- New roads: width, curbs, drainage – check required cross-sections in highway code
- Parking lots: number of parking spaces, area of parking spaces, shared parking, landscaping, land banking to allow smaller parking areas with room for future expansion if needed
- Rooftops: allow drainage to vegetated area, allow addition of rain barrels, allow flat roofs (for green roofs)

## **Consider requiring water quality provisions beyond those enforced by New York State**

- Some towns are more stringent than NYS requirement – groundwater recharge is often the driving force
  - o Prohibit increase in total runoff volume, including smaller sites
  - o Restrict percentage impervious surface, restrict impervious in certain areas

### **Local regulations can preserve natural green infrastructure**

- We often think of green infrastructure as constructed practices, but the cheapest and most dependable green infrastructure is often found naturally
- Identify and document natural green infrastructure
  - o Conservation Advisory Council's role
- Consider protecting wetlands, stream buffers, floodplains and vegetated steep slopes
  - o Wetlands – NYS protects wetlands larger than 12.4 acres only
- Techniques: stream and wetland ordinances, stricter floodplain laws, overlay zones
- Related: preserve open space in zoning through clustering, incentivize infill development

### **Reminders:**

- Balance fire and highway department needs (street width and design for plowing, emergency access)
- Balance protecting aquifer quality, preserving wildlife habitat, other environmental factors

### **Resources:**

- Code & Ordinance Worksheet from NYS DEC Hudson River Estuary Program
  - o [http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/remediation\\_hudson\\_pdf/cownys.pdf](http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/remediation_hudson_pdf/cownys.pdf)
- Pace Land Use Law Center – “Gaining Ground” database of local laws
  - o [www.landuse.law.pace.edu/](http://www.landuse.law.pace.edu/)
- Dutchess Greenway Guides – details on parking space sizes, etc.
  - o [www.co.dutchess.ny.us/CountyGov/Departments/Planning/17331.htm](http://www.co.dutchess.ny.us/CountyGov/Departments/Planning/17331.htm)
- Hudson River Valley Greenway – potential funding for code changes
  - o [www.hudsongreenway.state.ny.us/GrantFunding/GrantsOverview.aspx](http://www.hudsongreenway.state.ny.us/GrantFunding/GrantsOverview.aspx)
- Green Innovations Grant Program – potential funding for constructing GI practices
  - o [www.nysefc.org/Default.aspx?tabid=461](http://www.nysefc.org/Default.aspx?tabid=461)
- Cornell Local Roads Program – roadside ditch best practices
  - o [www.clrp.cornell.edu/TechAssistance/Tip\\_Sheets\\_by\\_Others/RoadsideDitches%201-11.pdf](http://www.clrp.cornell.edu/TechAssistance/Tip_Sheets_by_Others/RoadsideDitches%201-11.pdf)
- Model Ordinances for Aquifer Protection
  - o [www.russellurban-mead.com/work.htm](http://www.russellurban-mead.com/work.htm)

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