Green Infrastructure Tip Sheet

What is Green Infrastructure?

Green infrastructure is an approach to wet weather management that is cost-effective, sustainable, and environmentally friendly. Green Infrastructure management approaches and technologies infiltrate, evapotranspire, capture and reuse stormwater to maintain or restore natural hydrologies. (source: EPA)

Examples of Green Infrastructure Practices

Bioretention System
Bioswales
Downspout Disconnection
Dry swales
Green Parking
Green Roofs
Infiltration Trenches
Native Landscaping
Native Turf
Permeable Pavement Systems
Pocket Wetlands
Rain Gardens
Soil Quality Restoration
Stormwater Planter Boxes
Vegetated Box Filters

Strong and diverse partnerships are essential to the success of any green infrastructure from the individual site level to the watershed level. It is important that all partners with an interest in treating stormwater as a resource are brought together and involved in project development and implementation to move the project forward.

The following should be addressed in your CDBG Community Facilities and Services or Water/ Sewer Project Application if you propose to utilize green infrastructure in a stormwater project:

1. **Integrated Design:** Identify the parties involved and the integrated design process used to develop the green infrastructure management approaches and technologies proposed.
2. **Proposed Approaches and Technologies:** Describe the green infrastructure approaches and technologies proposed to solve the identified stormwater problem.
3. **Project Impact:** Discuss the size of the project area where stormwater will be addressed. Include information on the size of rainfall event anticipated to be managed by the proposed approaches and technologies, including the estimated annual amount of gallons of stormwater anticipated to be managed through infiltration, evapotranspiration, capture and/or reuse.
4. **Maintenance Plan:** Just like with conventional stormwater management infrastructure, the key to long-term success is proper and routine maintenance. Please describe the plan and responsible party(ies) for future maintenance of the green infrastructure.

Green Infrastructure Resources

- **Rainscaping Iowa**
  http://www.rainscapingiowa.org/
  Rainscaping Iowa is a statewide educational campaign that promotes urban stormwater management practices to protect water quality and reduce runoff with the help of its partners.
- **Iowa Stormwater Management Manual**
  http://www.intrans.iastate.edu/pubs/stormwater/index.cfm
  The *Iowa Stormwater Management Manual* provides design, specifications, and illustrations to assist project developers and installers in efficiently and effectively designing and installing green infrastructure practices focused on infiltration.
- **Iowa Urban Conservation Program**
  http://www.iowaagriculture.gov/FieldServices/urbanConservation.asp
  The Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship has urban conservationists across the state able to assist Iowans with planning and implementing green infrastructure practices.
- **Green Values® National Stormwater Management Calculator**
  http://greenvalues.cnt.org/national/calculator.php
  The National Green Values™ Calculator is a tool for quickly comparing the performance, costs, and benefits of Green Infrastructure, or Low Impact Development (LID), to conventional stormwater practices.
- **EPA Green Infrastructure Website**
  http://cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/home.cfm?program_id=298
  This website provides information on a variety of green infrastructure approaches and technologies along with case studies, technical information, training opportunities and funding information.