# OPTIONS FOR GREENING RALEIGH

March 2016

Low-Density Residential Development Stormwater Management

Green roofs reduce runoff volume and rates by intercepting rainfall in a layer of rooftop growing media that is typically six inches (extensive) or deeper (intensive).

Green roofs offer an array of benefits, including extended roof lifespan (due to additional sealing, liners, and insulation), improved building insulation and energy use, reduction of urban heat island effects, opportunities for recreation and rooftop gardening, noise attenuation, air quality improvement, bird and insect habitat, and improved aesthetics.

**Green Infrastructure** practices use vegetation, soils, and natural processes to manage stormwater runoff by mimicking nature to absorb and store water. Integrating these practices into a site can reduce the area required for conventional stormwater management by incorporating treatment within landscaping features and surfaces that would otherwise be impervious. This can be a cost-effective approach to treating stormwater by making more efficient use of a site with the potential for reduced construction costs, increased property values, and greater revenue generation from the additional space made available.

For more information, visit
https://www.raleighnc.gov,
www.ces.ncsu.edu/weco/lidguidebook
or contact
RaleighStormwater@raleighnc.gov.

Cisterns harvest rainwater from rooftops and temporarily store water for uses such as irrigation, washing vehicles, washing laundry, and flushing toilets

Downspout disconnection. By directing rooftop runoff onto vegetated areas, you can direct the water to areas where it will be useful rather than where it may cause harm or overload pipe systems.

planted with
turf grass have
been shown to
provide similar
treatment as
those planted
with trees and
shrubs.

Vegetated swales are shallow, open grass channels that can be an alternative to traditional curbs and gutters. Vegetated swales are designed to convey runoff while providing limited pollutant removal by sedimentation and horizontal

filtration through vegetation.

Bioretention areas, or rain

gardens, are structural

stormwater controls that

runoff using soils and

and improve the quality of

vegetation in landscaped

areas to reduce the volume

capture and temporarily

store or infiltrate stormwater

Permeable
pavement in
driveways allows
runoff from the
driveway, and
potentially
the rooftop,
to infiltrate,
reducing the
volume and
improving water
quality, while providing a
structurally stable parking

surface.

This fact sheet is intended to demonstrate multiple options for treating stormwater runoff on a site. Site designs must meet the requirements of the City of Raleigh and are subject to regulatory review.

### Cost Savings for Low-Density Residential Green Stormwater Management



#### **Boulder Hills Development**

- Pelham, NH
- Porous asphalt instead of conventional pavement
- Saved \$50,000 (6%) by avoiding curbing, outlet control structures, large stormwater detention ponds



#### Village Homes Development

- Davis, CA
- Vegetated swales, rain gardens, open space, narrow streets, clustered lots
- Saved \$800 per lot, \$192,000 for entire neighborhood compared to conventional development



#### 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue Neighborhood

- Seattle, WA
- Bioswales, added vegetation, wetlands, reduced impervious area
- Saved \$217,255 (25%) compared to conventional retrofits



#### **Gap Creek Subdivision**

- Sherwood, AR
- Preserved natural drainage areas, traffic-calming circles, reduced street width
- Saved \$4,800 per lot, \$678,500
   (15%) total compared to conventional development



#### **Auburn Hills Subdivision**

- Racine, WI
- 40% of site preserved as open space with wetlands, green space, added open swales, bioretention
- Saved \$761,396 compared to conventional development



#### **Downspout Disconnection Program**

- Portland, OR
- City offers financial incentives for disconnections (\$13-\$53 per downspout)
- Estimated reduction = 1 billion gallons of stormwater annually, \$250 million reduction in construction for underground pipes citywide (based on 44,000 homeowners participating)

TIONS FOR GREENING RALEIGH Medium-Density Residential Development Bioretention areas, or rain gardens, are structural stormwater controls that **Stormwater Management** capture and temporarily store or infiltrate stormwater runoff using soils and vegetation in landscaped areas to reduce the volume and improve the **Permeable** quality of runoff. sidewalks reduce **Downspout disconnection** the volume of can reduce runoff runoff by allowing **Rain barrels and cisterns** volumes by directing infiltration while harvest rainwater from rooftop runoff onto maintaining vegetated areas where rooftops temporarily storing structural stability it can infiltrate rather water for uses such as for pedestrians. irrigation, washing vehicles, than being collected in a washing laundry, and drainage system. flushing toilets reducing the volume and improving the quality of runoff and delaying the peak flow. **Bioretention areas** located between the curb and sidewalk can treat runoff from the street or adjacent parcel. **Green Infrastructure** practices use Permeable pavement in the parking lanes allows street runoff to infiltrate, reducing the volume and improving water quality, while providing a structurally stable parking surface. permeable pavers no. 8 bedding stone underdrain soil media concrete washed no. 57 stone This fact sheet is intended to demonstrate washed no. 57 stone multiple options for treating stormwater Site designs must meet the requirements of the City of Raleigh and are subject to

regulatory review.



March 2016

**Bioretention** located in the right-of-way can treat runoff from the street or rooftops.

Permeable pavement in driveways allows runoff to infiltrate, reducing runoff volume and improving water quality, while providing a structurally stable surface for parking and reducing the overall impervious area.

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# OPTIONS FOR GREENING RALEIGH High-Density Residential Development

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**Stormwater Management** 

Urban agriculture is the cultivation, processing, marketing, and distribution of food in urbanized areas. Research regarding soil and water interactions with ecologically-based food production systems indicates that large-scale implementation of urban agriculture can help restore urban hydrology and water quality.

**Cisterns** harvest rainwater from rooftops and temporarily store water for uses such as irrigation, washing vehicles, washing laundry, and flushing toilets.

> Permeable pavement in the parking lane allows rain that falls on the parking lane and the street to infiltrate. reducing the volume and improving water quality, while providing a structurally stable parking surface.

Permeable pavement sidewalks allow rain that falls on the sidewalk and, potentially, the rooftops to infiltrate, reducing the volume and improving water quality, while providing a structurally stable surface.

insect habitat, and

improved aesthetics.

Suspended pavement maintains void space underneath paved areas that is filled with high-quality soil media (often engineered) and prevents compaction in heavily paved environments allowing for treatment below the surface to reduce the volume and improve the quality of runoff. Suspended pavements are ideal for urban areas and promote tree health by keeping soils loose.

**Bioretention areas**, or rain gardens, are structural stormwater controls that capture and temporarily store or infiltrate stormwater runoff using soils and vegetation in landscaped areas to reduce the volume and improve the quality of runoff. Street trees can be incorporated into bioretention areas to maximize stormwater treatment and meet landscaping requirements.

Pervious plazas. Incorporating permeable pavement in plazas, sidewalks, or open space area can reduce impervious area and provide additional opportunities for treatment and infiltrating stormwater runoff.

vegetation, soils, and natural processes to manage stormwater runoff by mimicking nature to absorb and store water. Integrating these practices into a site can reduce the area required for conventional stormwater management by incorporating treatment within landscaping features and surfaces that would otherwise be impervious. This can be a cost-effective approach to treating stormwater by making more efficient use of a site with the potential for reduced construction costs, increased property values, and greater revenue generation from the additional space made available.

**Green Infrastructure** practices use

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### Cost Savings for High-Density Residential Green Stormwater Management



#### **Bronx River Houses**

- New York, NY
- Blue and green roofs, rain gardens, perforated pipes, subsurface stormwater chambers
- NYC Green Infrastructure Plan expected to save \$2.4 billion in avoided conventional stormwater infrastructure construction



#### Panther Hollow (Study, not implemented)

- Pittsburgh, PA
- Analysis of green roof costsaving potential for high-density residential: \$260/year/roof saved in conventional stormwater drainage infrastructure



#### **Poplar Street Apartments**

- Aberdeen, NC
- 270-unit apartment complex
- Bioretention, channels, swales, stormwater basins
- Saved \$175,000 (72%) compared to conventional development



The Natural Resources
Defense Council (NRDC)
estimates that, using green roofs,
strategic tree planting, bioswales,
and rain gardens can save
\$43,500/year for a single building
(study assumes 34,000 square
feet and 4 stories). This includes:
energy cost reduction, tax credits,
avoided conventional roof
replacement, increased property
values, increased rental income,
and stormwater fee reduction.



#### Silver Creek Watershed Area

- Toledo, OH
- Highly developed downtown area, subject to flooding
- Blue roofs, bioswales, permeable pavement
- Estimated benefits, including reduced flooding, exceeding \$39,500 annually

## OPTIONS FOR GREENING RALEIGH



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**Mixed-Use Development Stormwater Management** 

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Permeable pavement

rainwater from rooftops and temporarily store water for uses such as irrigation, washing vehicles. washing laundry, and flushing toilets. Cisterns in highly impervious areas can be installed in parking garages or under buildings and can store a

significant amount of water.

**Cisterns** harvest

Suspended pavement maintains void space underneath paved areas that is filled with high-quality soil media (often engineered) and prevents compaction in heavily paved environments allowing for treatment below the surface to reduce the volume and improve the quality of runoff. Suspended pavements are ideal for urban areas and promote tree health by keeping soils loose.

**Permeable pavement sidewalks** allow rain that falls on the sidewalk and, potentially, the rooftops to infiltrate, reducing the volume and improving water quality, while providing a structurally stable surface.

Bioretention areas, or rain gardens, are structural stormwater controls that capture and temporarily store or infiltrate stormwater runoff using soils and vegetation in landscaped areas to reduce the volume and improve the quality of runoff. Street trees can be

For more information, visit incorporated into bioretention areas https://www.raleighnc.gov, to maximize stormwater treatment and www.ces.ncsu.edu/weco/lidguidebook meet landscaping requirements. or contact RaleighStormwater@raleighnc.gov.

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quality, while providing a structurally stable parking surface.

**Green Infrastructure** practices use

to manage stormwater runoff by

vegetation, soils, and natural processes

mimicking nature to absorb and store

water. Integrating these practices into

a site can reduce the area required for

conventional stormwater management

landscaping features and surfaces that

would otherwise be impervious. This can

be a cost-effective approach to treating

stormwater by making more efficient use

of a site with the potential for reduced

construction costs, increased property

values, and greater revenue generation

from the additional space made

available.

by incorporating treatment within

### Cost Savings for Mixed-Use Development Green Stormwater Management



#### Mill Creek

- Kane County, IL
- 1,500 acre mixed-use community with conservation design principles. 45% open space reduces stormwater costs and increases natural beauty.
- Saved \$3,411 per lot (27%)



#### Panther Hollow (Study, not implemented)

- Pittsburgh, PA
- •Area is 9.6% commercial, 30% high density residential, 60.4% low density residential
- •Estimated \$295/year saved in stormwater drainage costs per green roof



#### Green Downtown Area

- West Union, IA
- Implementing permeable pavers rather than traditional pavement results in long-term cost savings
- Estimated cumulative savings of a 57-year period of about \$2.5 million compared to traditional pavement options with typical maintenance



#### City Sidewalks

- Olympia, WA
- City-wide sidewalk analysis determined traditional sidewalks costs \$101 per square yard and pervious sidewalks cost \$54 per square yard
- Considered construction and long term maintenance costs and the cost for conventional stormwater management required with traditional sidewalks.



- St. Paul, MN
- Rain gardens, stormwater planters, infiltration trenches, tree trenches
- Estimated \$500,000 saved (20%) compared to conventional stormwater drainage infrastructure

OPTIONS FOR GREENING RALEIGH Commercial Development

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intercepting rainfall in a layer of rooftop growing

media that is typically six inches (extensive) or

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of benefits, including extended roof lifespan

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effects, opportunities for recreation and rooftop

gardening, noise attenuation, air quality

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improvement, bird and insect habitat,

energy use, reduction of urban heat island

(due to additional sealing, liners, and

Permeable pavement in the parking stalls allows runoff from the parking lot to infiltrate, reducing the volume and improving water quality, while providing a structurally stable parking surface.

Subsurface storage can be an option on sites were space is a constraint. Below ground systems can be configured to store water for use on site or for treatment through infiltration.

Cisterns harvest rainwater from rooftops and temporarily store water for uses such as irrigation, washing vehicles, washing laundry, and flushing toilets.

**Planter boxes** use bioretention functions, including filtration and plant uptake, to treat runoff directly adjacent to structures and foundations without impacting the structural stability of surrounding infrastructure.

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Stormwater Management

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maximize stormwater treatment and meet

store or infiltrate

can be integrated into traffic calming measures to treat stormwater runoff from the street and meet landscaping requirements.

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### Cost Savings for Commercial Development Green Stormwater Management



#### **US EPA Building**

- RTP, NC
- Grassy swales, water quality ponds, bioretention, preserved natural areas, 100-ft lake buffer established
- Saved \$500,000 by avoiding curb and gutter and oil-grit separators



#### **Greenland Meadows Retail**

- Greenland, NH
- 4.5 acres of porous asphalt, catch basins, sand filter, subsurface crushed stone reservoir
- Saved \$930,000 compared to conventional stormwater management



#### Vancouver Island Tech Park

- Saanich, British Columbia
- Constructed wetlands, grassy swales and open channels, ponds, permeable pavement, native plants
- Saved \$530,000 compared to conventional stormwater management



#### **Tellabs Corporate Campus**

- Naperville, IL
  - 330,000 sq ft office space
  - Preserved natural wetlands and drainage, bioswales
  - Saved \$461,510 (14%) compared to conventional stormwater retrofits



### Oregon Museum of Science and Industry

- Portland, OR
- 6-acre parking lot retrofit with vegetation and bioswales
- Saved \$78,000 compared to conventional stormwater management



#### City Hall, Bloedel Donovan Park

- Bellingham, WA
- Parking lot rain garden retrofits.
   City Hall converted 5% of parking lot, and Park converted 550 square feet to rain gardens
- Saved \$22,000 (80%) and \$40,000 (76%) respectively