

PROMOTING GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE STORMWATER SOLUTIONS



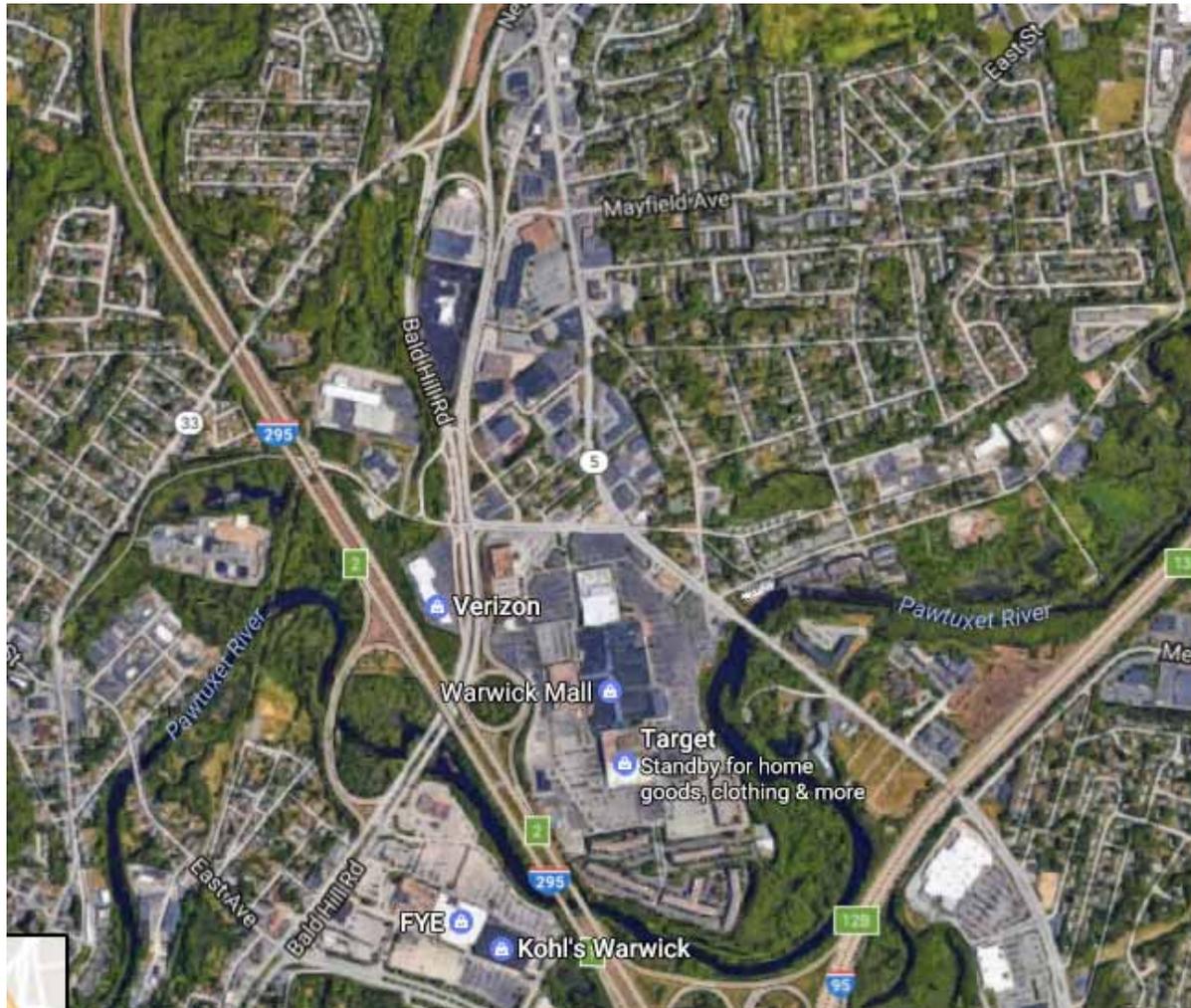
Johnathan Berard, Clean Water Action ♦ Amelia Rose, Groundwork RI
Saturday, March 11, 2017

WHY GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE?

A few questions we need to answer:

- What happens to rain once it hits the ground?
- How have we traditionally managed stormwater?
- Why is solely relying on gray infrastructure inadequate?

WHY IS ONLY GRAY INADEQUATE?



WHY IS ONLY GRAY INADEQUATE?



Photo: NOAA

WHY GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE?

- Slows volume and velocity
- Captures and filters pollutants
- Improves community aesthetics
- Creates wildlife habitat
- Installation and maintenance creates jobs

BARRIERS TO GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

- It's new technology (change is hard)
- It's more expensive (up front)
- It takes long-term maintenance
- It's not how we have done things
- Attitudes about pollution and flooding

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE?



Photo: OpinionWorks/Julie Lawson

A DISCONNECT FROM WATER

- Who pollutes our waters?
- How do our individual actions affect the waters around us?
- How do we move forward and think about stormwater differently?
- Who is responsible for moving forward?

RI GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE COALITION

Transforming Rhode Island's urban landscapes with nature-based solutions for managing stormwater and climate change.



RI GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE COALITION



- PROJECTS, MAINTENANCE,
and WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT



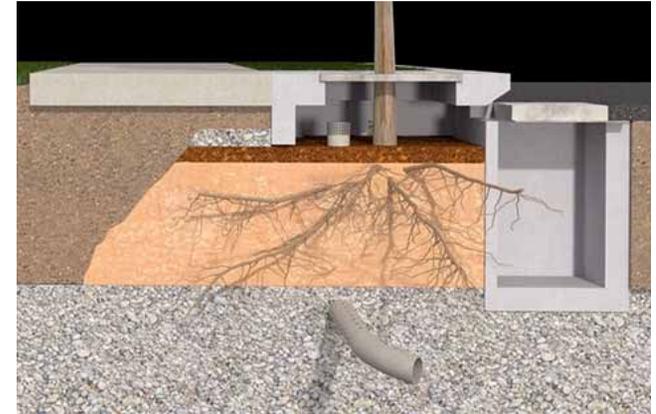
- COMMUNICATIONS
- POLICIES

PROJECTS



RHODE ISLAND GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE COALITION

PROJECTS



**PLEASANT VALLEY WATER DIVERSION
PROJECT, WRWC 2016**



WORKFORCE TRAINING



- Classroom training
- Field experience
- Skills development



MAINTENANCE



- **Project aesthetics and functionality**
- **Crucial to building public support**
- **Easy checklists to follow**
- **Important to consider in project design**
- **URI, RINLA, Providence Parks Department, GIC**

MAINTENANCE



RHODE ISLAND GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE COALITION

COMMUNICATIONS

- Digital communications
 - Listserv
 - Email database
 - Social media
- Development of effective messaging
- Signage



Nature is at work here!

We're creating a healthy community! This site uses nature to clean dirty stormwater and reduce flooding.

www.greeninfrastructureri.org

What's happening here?



Clean

Uses plants and soil to filter out pollution.



Protect

Absorbs rain and reduces flooding.



Economy

Reduces utility bills and creates local jobs.



Cool

Replaces hard surfaces that hold heat.



Wellness

Cleans our air and creates welcoming spaces.



Habitat

Attracts animals like butterflies, turtles and frogs.



William D'Abate Elementary Rain Garden

5th Graders here helped plant this rain garden to hold and clean rain water coming off of the school roof. Plants native to RI beautify the school while making food for butterflies. This garden will also help reduce flooding in the Woonasquatucket River at Riverside Park.



H

POLICIES

- Stormwater utilities / enterprise funds
- Green Economy Bond (“Yes on 6”)
- Green Buildings Act (H.5427)
- Other local/state actions (consent decree, Stormwater Manual updates, etc.)

THANK YOU!



Johnathan Berard
jberard@cleanwater.org

Amelia Rose
arose@groundworkri.org

www.greeninfrastructureri.org

www.facebook.com/RhodeIslandGIC

RHODE ISLAND GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE COALITION