

# Green Infrastructure Details, Application and Maintenance Requirements

Binghamton NY – June 10, 2014

John Dunkle, PE, CPESC, CMS4S

# GI for Binghamton





# GI Practices

- Green Space
- Riparian Buffers/Grass Filter Strips
- Tree Planting/Preservation
- Rooftop Disconnect
- Porous /Permeable Pavement
- Green Roofs
- Swales
- Bioretention/rain gardens/planters
- Infiltration
- Rain barrels/cisterns









# The GI Common Threads:

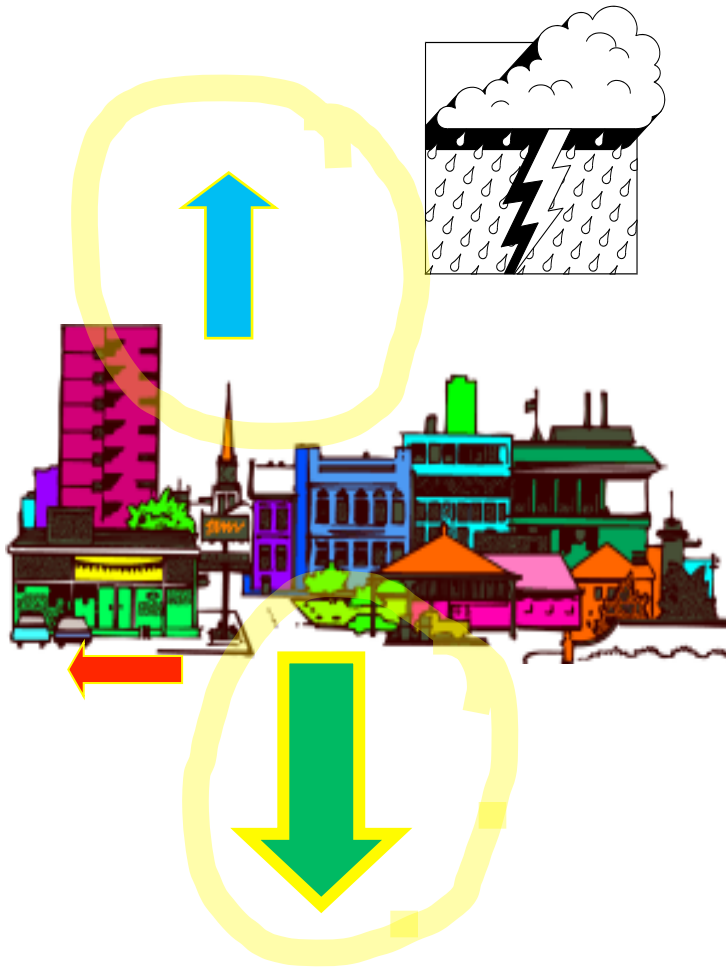


All GI Practices

Provide

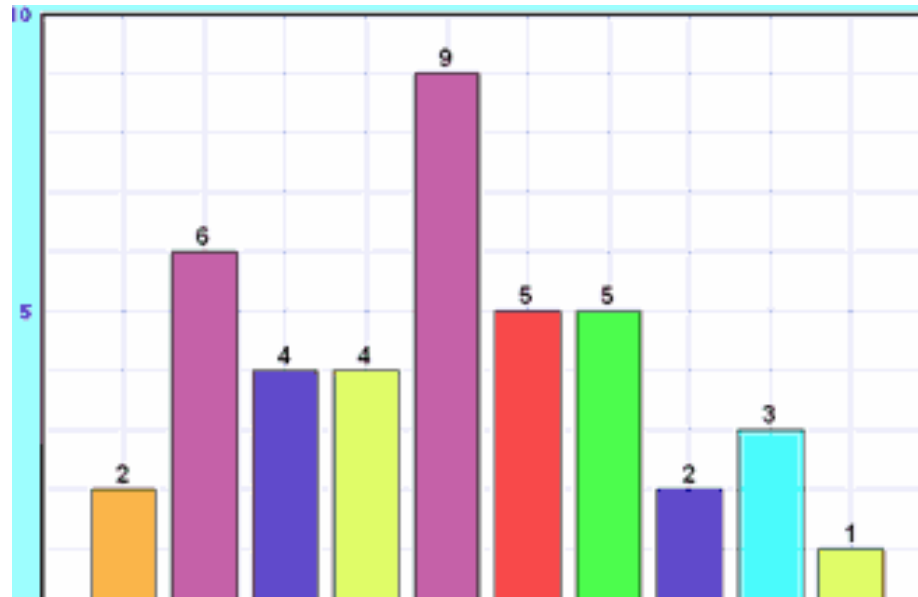
Runoff Reduction

# Runoff Reduction Pathways



- Evaporation
- Evapotranspiration
- Absorption
- Infiltration
- Reuse

# GI Treatment Practices have variable Runoff Reduction rates.





# The GI Common Threads:



All GI Practices

Provide

Pollutant Removal

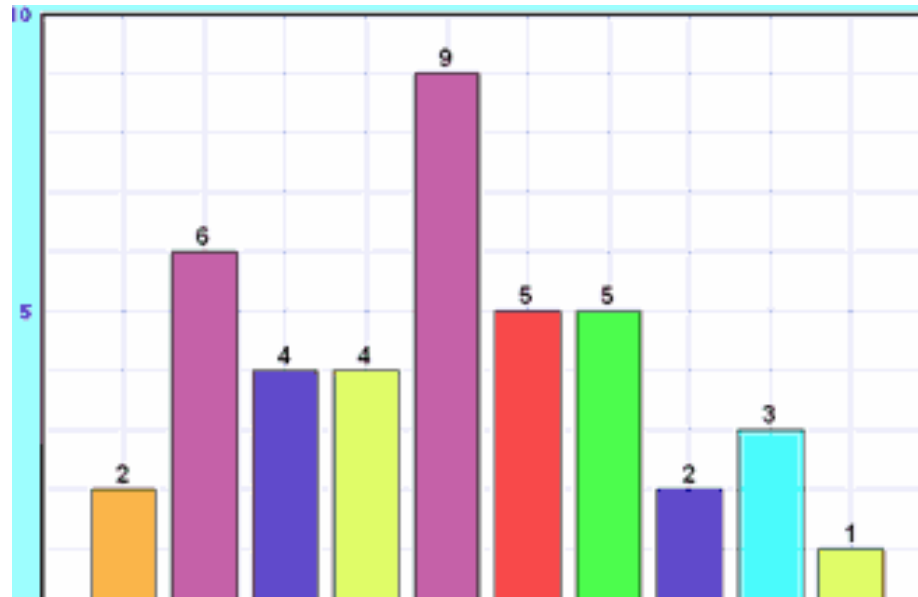
# Pollutant Removal Pathways

- Storage
- Evaporation
- Nutrient uptake
- UV treatment
- Settling
- Biology
- Infiltration
- Dilution
- Soil Stabilization



# GI Treatment Practices

provide variable pollutant removal.





# The GI Common Threads:



All GI Practices

Need

Storage Volume

# Storage – Above Ground



# Storage – Underground Pipe Chambers





# Storage – Infiltration Chambers



# Storage - Tanks



# Vaults





# Vaults/Tunnels

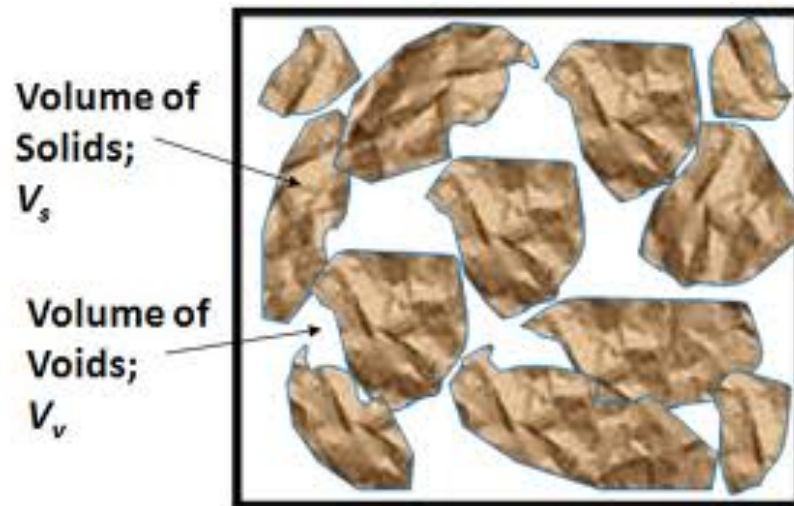




# Blue Roofs/Cisterns



# Storage Volume in soils



# Storage - Soils



20 % Voids

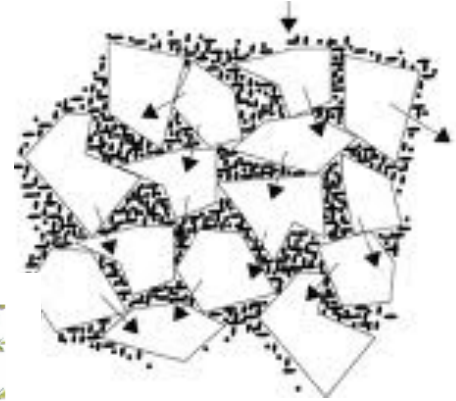


# Storage – Stone(uniformly graded)



40% Voids

# Storage - Structural Soils



26% Voids



Using CU-Structural Soil™ in the Urban Environment



Cornell University

Urban Horticulture Institute  
Cornell University  
Department of Horticulture  
134A Plant Science Building  
Ithaca, NY 14853  
[www.hort.cornell.edu/UHI](http://www.hort.cornell.edu/UHI)

# The GI Common Threads:



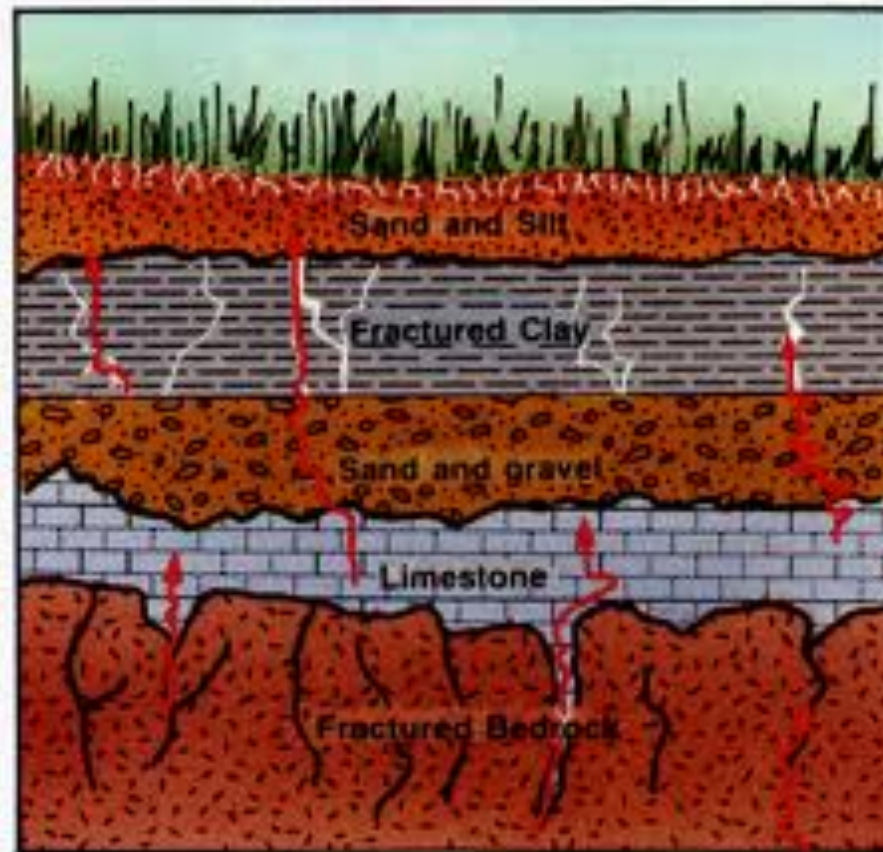
Most GI Practices

Need

Permeability



# Got Permeability?



NOPE.



Infiltration

YUP



Be Careful



# GI Practices Utilizing Infiltration

- Infiltration Basin
- Infiltration Trench
- Dry Well
- Bio-retention
- Rain garden
- Permeable/porous pavement
- Planter
- Dry Swale
- Vegetated swale
- Tree planting
- Buffers/filter strips
- Green Space



Minimum infiltration rate for  
infiltration based practices:

**1/2" per hour**

@ 2' below the design bottom

Must be established by testing.



# The GI Common Threads:



Most GI Practices

Need

Green

# Roof Tops



# Pavement





# Ways to Add Green



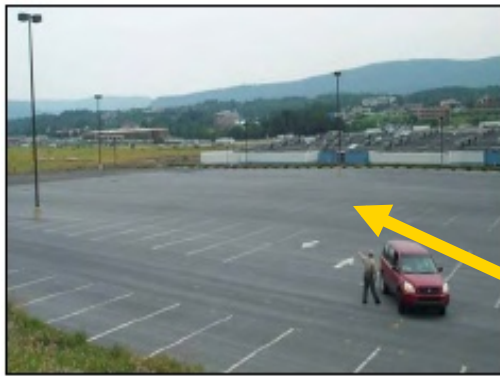
# Creating Urban Green Space



# Creating Riparian Buffer







Add treatment to EXISTING  
PARKING LOTS

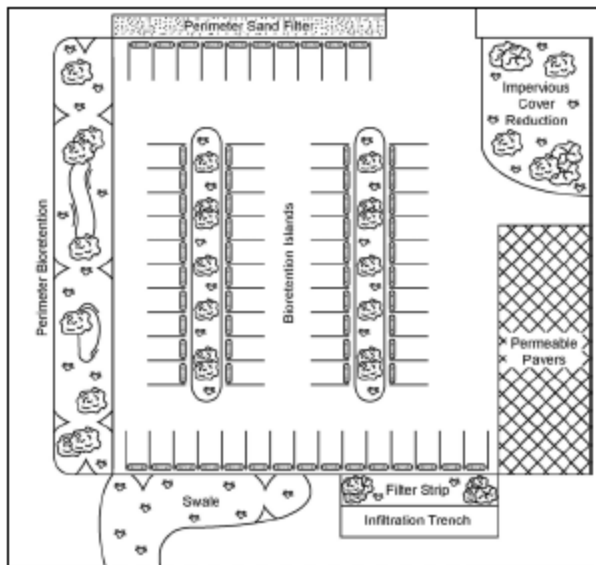
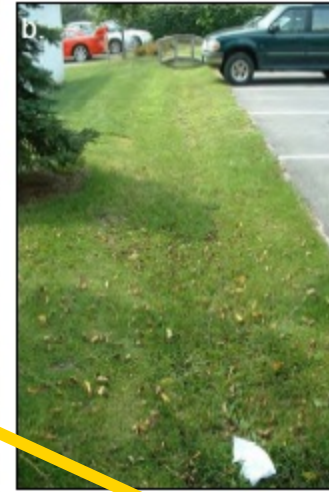
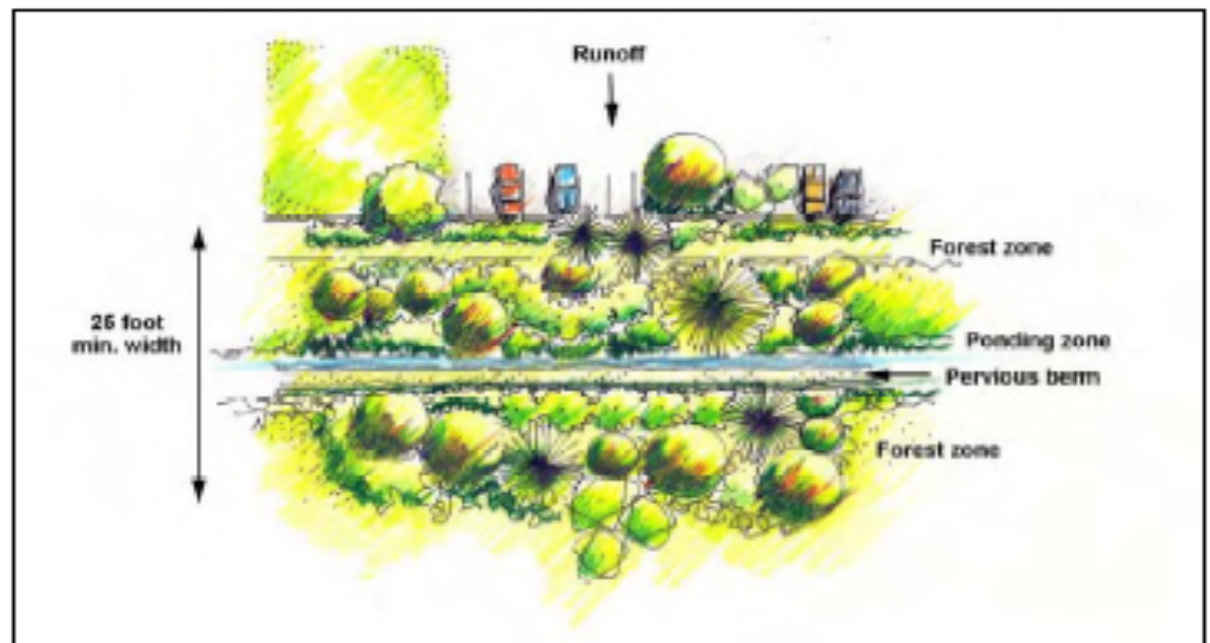
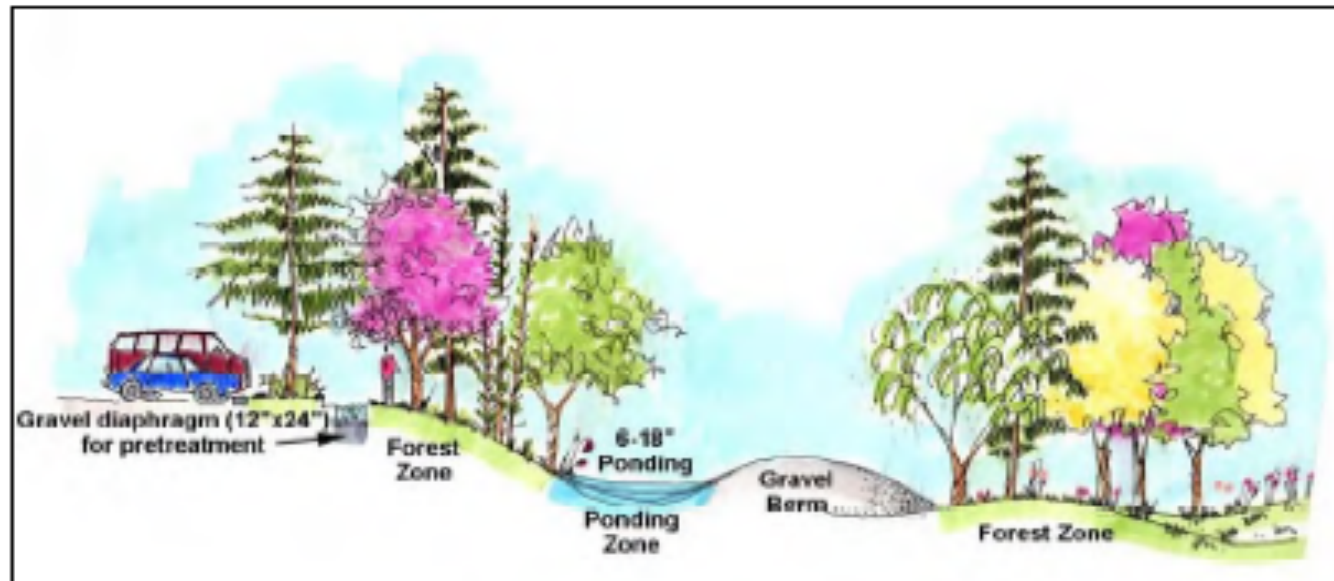


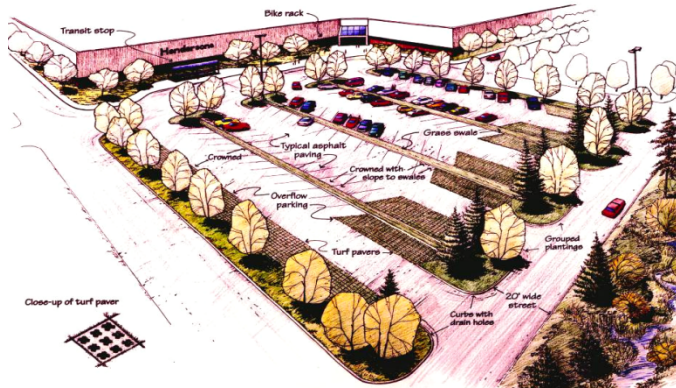
Figure 2: Examples of retrofits employed at small parking lots: permeable pavers (a); dry swale (b); perimeter sand filter (c); grass filter/infiltration trench (d); filter strip (e); internal bioretention (f); underground infiltration (g) and island bioretention (h).

TREATMENT at EDGE  
of  
PARKING LOT





# PARKING LOT RETROFIT





# MODIFY PUBLIC SPACES

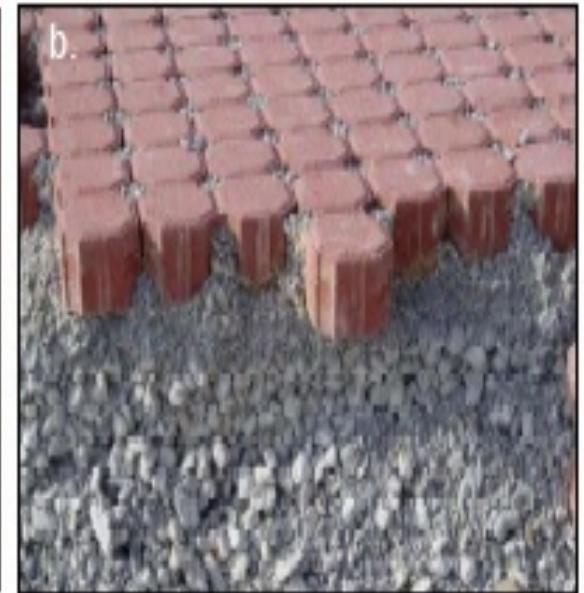
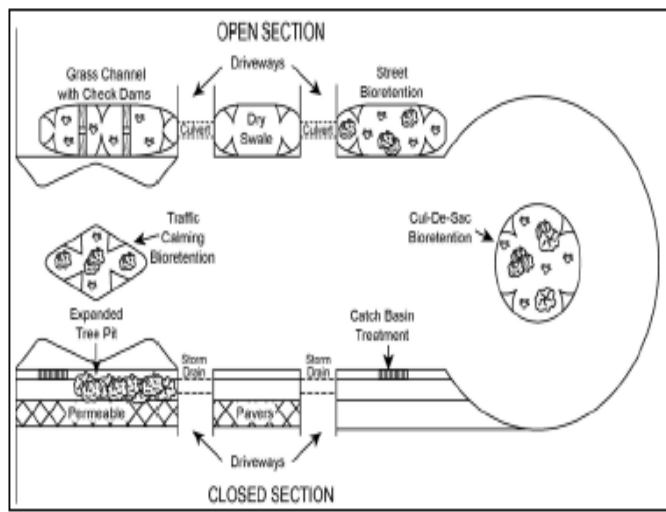


Figure 2: Landscape architects can creatively use stormwater as a resource in foundation planters (a); permeable pavers (b); bioretention (c); and stormwater tree pits (d).



## MODIFY EXISTING STREET SCAPES

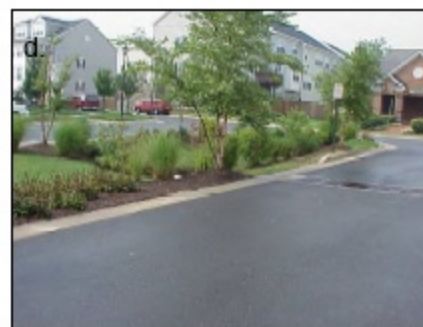


Figure 4: More street retrofit ideas: SEA streets swale (a); close-up of Portland street bioretention (b) and bioretention in street medians (c/d).

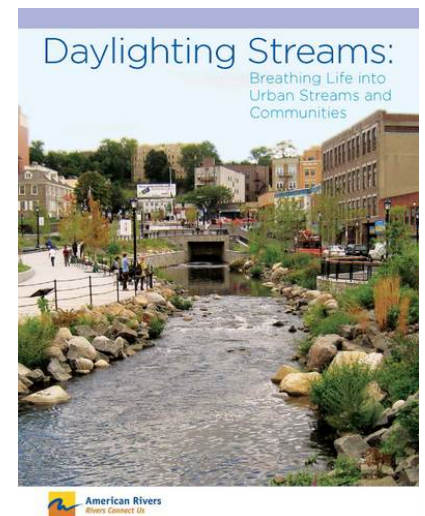


Figure 3: Innovative street retrofits include: curb cuts to rain gardens (a), surface bioretention in traffic calming measures (b), larger bioretention pocket in multi-family residential (c), and curb cuts to cascading bioretention cells (d).





# Stream Daylighting





# Urban Stream Restoration



# Tree Planting





# Re-forestation/ Re-vegetation





# Vegetated Filters



# Rooftops



# The GI Common Threads:



All GI Practices

Need

Care



# Some Typical GI Stormwater Maintenance Issues:

# Excess Sedimentation



# Clogging at Inlets & Outlets





# Erosion: Inlets, slopes, Practice surface



# Vegetation



Little vegetation, no diversity



Too much vegetation, no diversity



# Vegetation:

The Wrong Kind





# Problems with Pretreatment

- Sedimentation & Loss of Settling Volume/Retention Time
- Contamination



# Structural Integrity





# Loss of Permeability

- Compaction
- Sedimentation
- Organic Degradation





# Other Maintenance Problems



# Typical GI Maintenance Tasks

- Mowing
- Sediment removal
  - (excavation, vacuuming, raking sweeping, washing)
- Pruning
- Weeding
- Planting
- Fertilizing
- Re-grading
- Soil restoration
- Structural Repairs



# Onondaga County, New York Save the Rain Program Green Infrastructure Maintenance Training



Prepared for  
Onondaga County, New York

[savetherain.us](http://savetherain.us)

Prepared by  
 CH2M HILL

March 9, 2012




Save the Rain

The logo for "Save the Rain" features three stylized water droplets in blue and green above the text "Save the Rain". The word "Save" is in blue, "the" is in a smaller blue font, and "Rain" is in a larger green font.



# GI Practice Design and Care Details



- 
- No nutrients
  - No organics
  - No permeability

Soil Restoration



# Restore Compacted Soils





# How and when to restore Soil:



p 5-22

Table 5.3 Soil Restoration Requirements		
Type of Soil Disturbance	Soil Restoration Requirement	
No soil disturbance	Restoration not permitted	
Minimal soil disturbance	Restoration not required	
Areas where topsoil is stripped only - no change in grade	HSG A & B	HSG C & D
	apply 6 inches of topsoil	Aerate* and apply 6 inches of topsoil
Areas of cut or fill	HSG A & B	HSG C & D
	Aerate and apply 6 inches of topsoil	Apply full Soil Restoration **
Heavy traffic areas on site (especially in a zone 5-25 feet around buildings but not within a 5 foot perimeter around foundation walls)	Apply full Soil Restoration (de-compaction and compost enhancement)	
Areas where Runoff Reduction and/or Infiltration practices are applied	Restoration not required, but may be applied to enhance the reduction specified for appropriate practices.	Keep construction equipment from crossing these areas. To protect newly installed practice from any ongoing construction activities construct a single phase operation fence area
Redevelopment projects	Soil Restoration is required on redevelopment projects in areas where existing impervious area will be converted to pervious area.	

# Soil restoration techniques: topsoiling

- Goals:
  - Restore the upper soil horizon (A-Horizon)
  - Create a medium for plant growth.
  - Restore organic matter.



## **SOIL STRUCTURE**

**O-horizon:** leaf litter,  
organic material

**A-horizon:** plough zone,  
rich in organic matter

**B-horizon:** zone of  
accumulation

**C-horizon:** weathering soil;  
little organic material or life

**R-horizon:** unweathered  
parent material

# soil restoration techniques:

## Aeration



### ⦿ Goals:

- Increase macropores.
- Decompact soil.
- Restore infiltration.

- “Aeration includes the use of machines such as tractor-drawn implements with coulters making a narrow slit in the soil, a roller with many spikes making indentations in the soil, or prongs which function like a mini-subsoiler.”



# Soil restoration techniques: compost amendments

“Compost shall be aged, from plant derived materials, free of viable weed seeds, have no visible free water or dust produced when handling, pass through a half inch screen and have a pH suitable to grow desired plants.”

- Goals:
  - Restore soil organic material.
  - Improve soil infiltration capacity.
  - Provide an environment



# Deep Ripping



< 12 depth  
w multiple passes



New York State  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

Division of Water

## Deep-Ripping and Decompaction

April 2008

New York State  
Department of Environmental Conservation

# “Complete soil restoration”

Multi-step process that includes:

- Composting.
- Tilling compost into soil.
- Removing large rocks.
- Applying topsoil.
- Vegetating the surface.



Great Resource: “Deep Ripping and De-compaction” DEC 2008.

Access at:

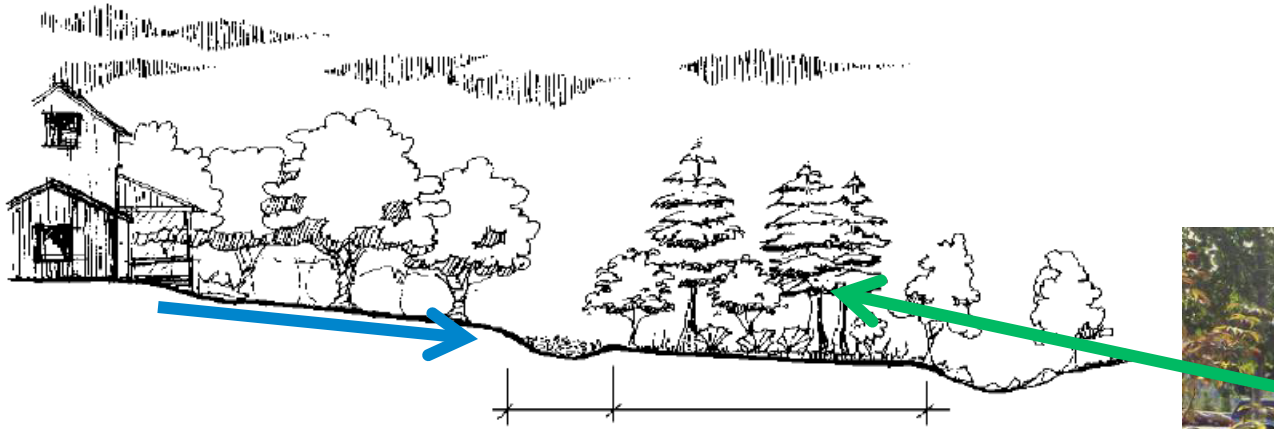
[http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/water\\_pdf/infildecom08.pdf](http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/water_pdf/infildecom08.pdf)



# Soil Restoration National Mall



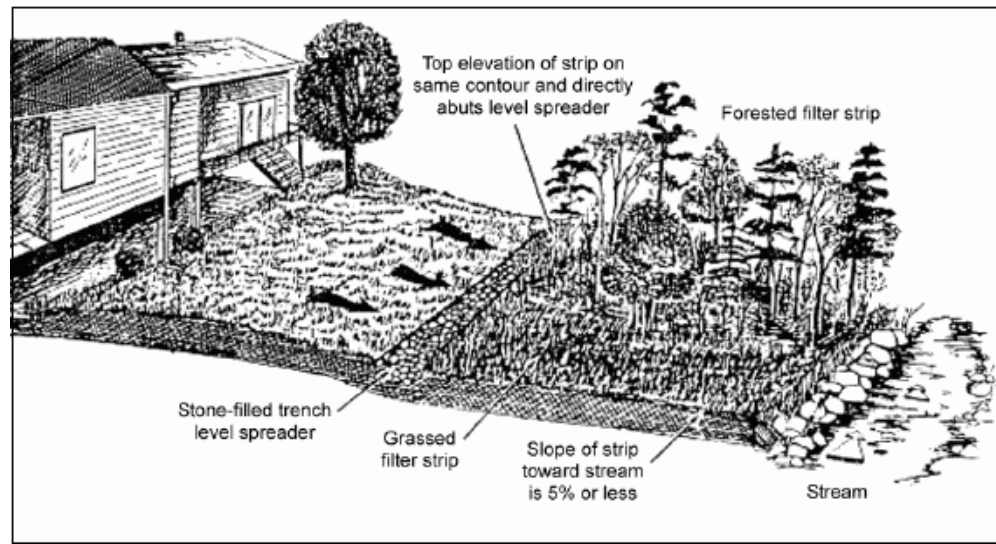
# Green Space/Buffers/Filter Strips



# Green Space/Buffers/Filter Strips

## Some Critical Elements

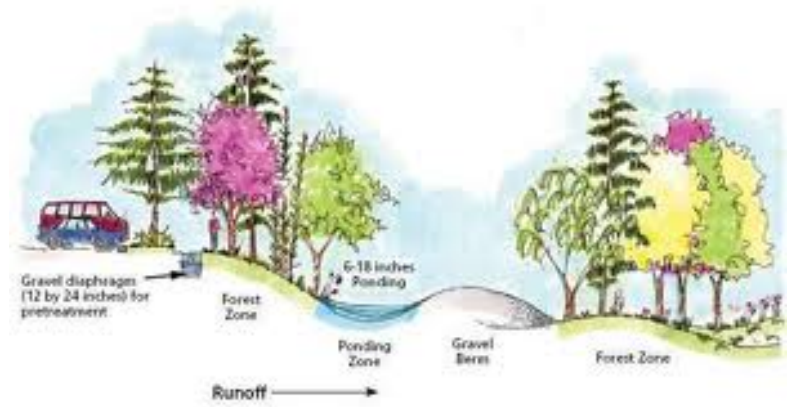
- Pavement Removal
- Flow dissipation
- Vegetation
- Contributing length
- Width
- Soils
- Slope
- Protection





# Maintenance of Green Space/Buffers/Filter Strips

- Delineation
- Protection
- Enforcement
- Maintain Health and Diversity
- Debris removal



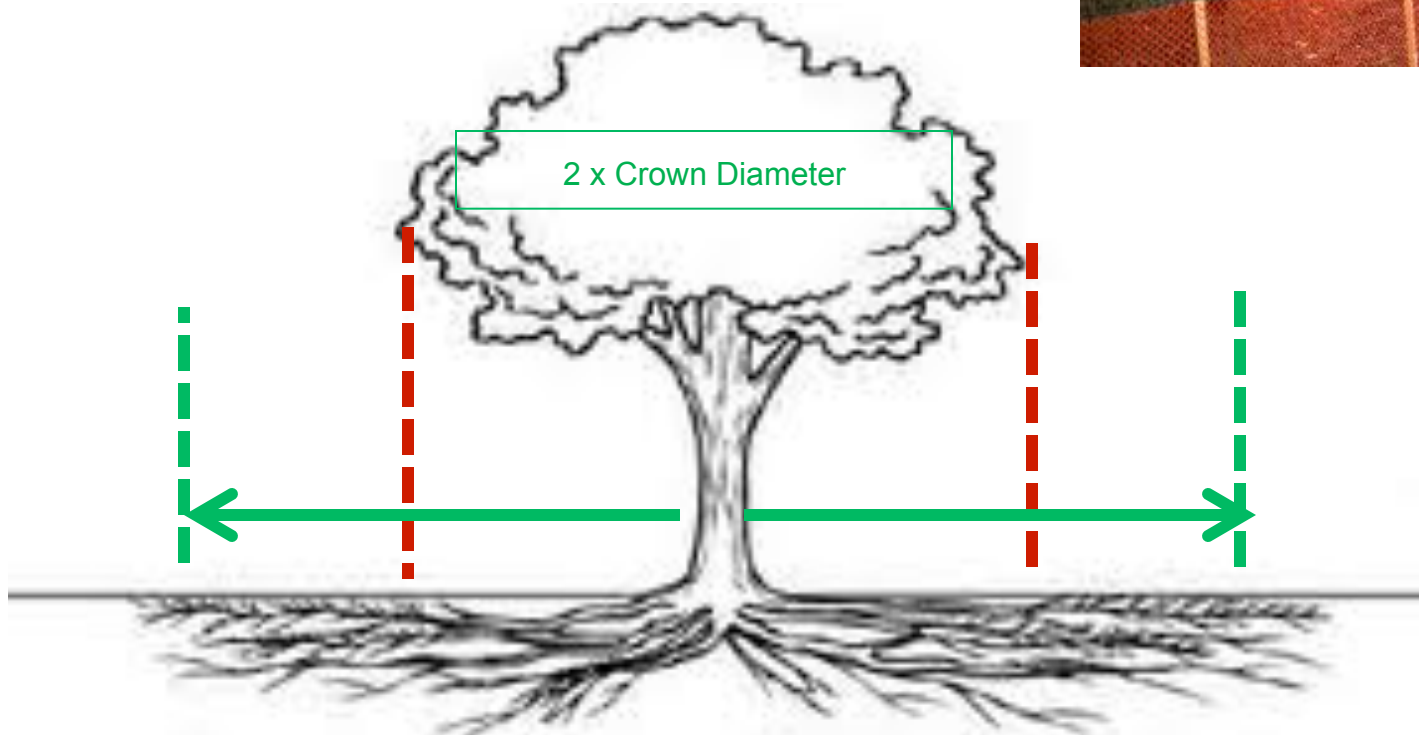
# Tree Preservation/Planting

## Some Critical Elements

- Tree species
- Size/age
- Contributing DA
- Soil media (new plantings)



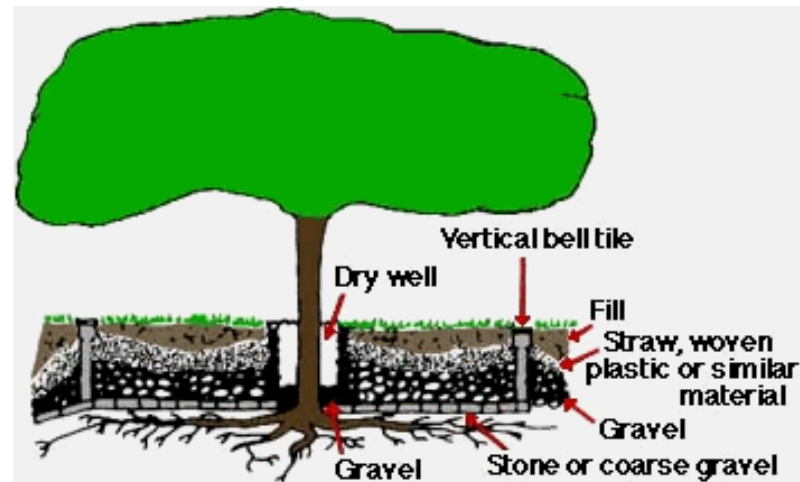
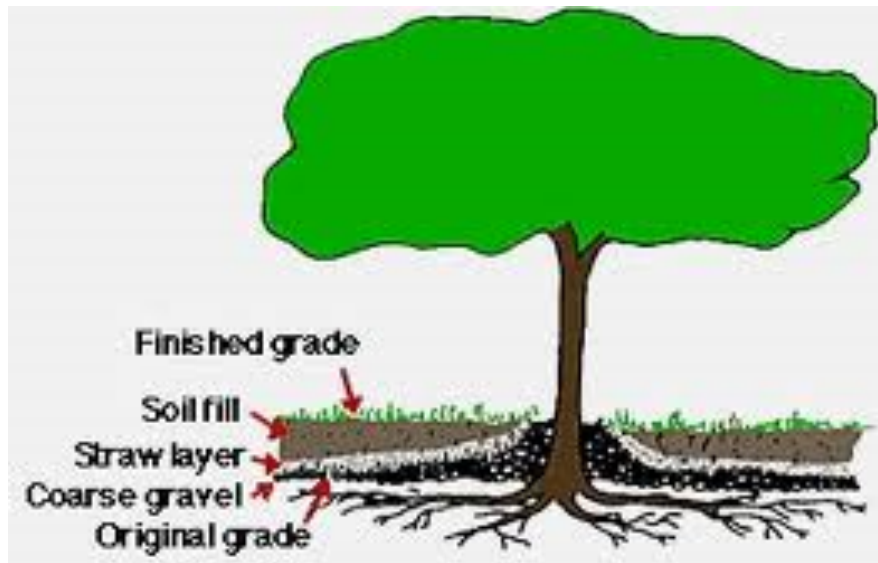
# Protecting Trees



The roots of a tree extend far from the trunk and are found mostly in the upper 6 to 12 inches of soil.



# Protection of Trees



Trees

# Tree Planting

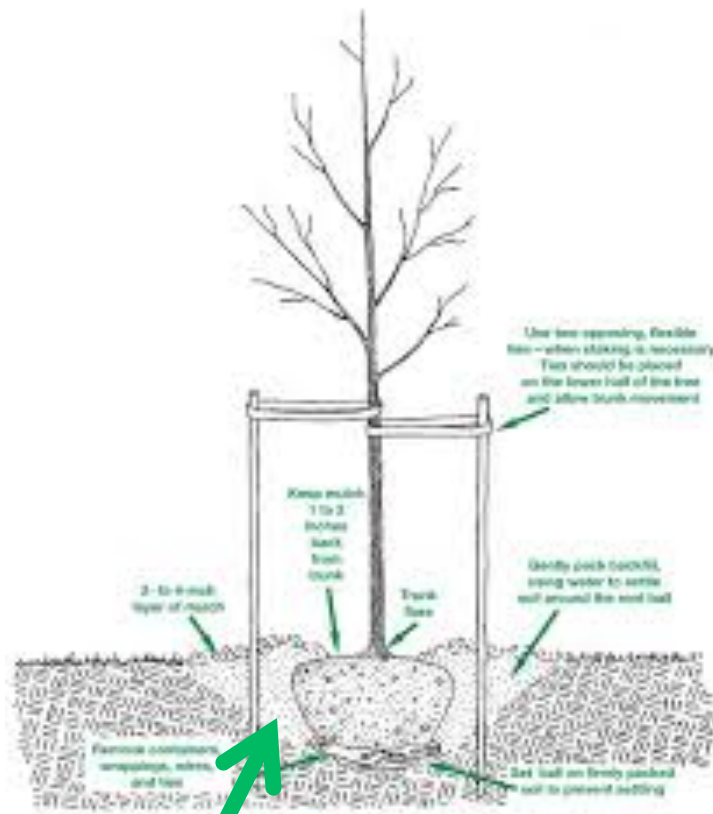
Nope



YUP



# Tree Planting



2 c.f. / sf. of crown projection



# Planting Soil

- PH range 5.2 to 7.00
- Organic matter 1.5 to 4.0%
- Magnesium 35 lbs. per acre, minimum
- Phosphorus ( $P_2O_5$ ) 75 lbs. per acre, minimum
- Potassium ( $K_2O$ ) 85 lbs. per acre, minimum
- Soluble salts 500 ppm
- Clay 10 to 25%
- Silt 30 to 55%
- Sand 35 to 60%



# Planting Soil using Structural Soils



26% Voids

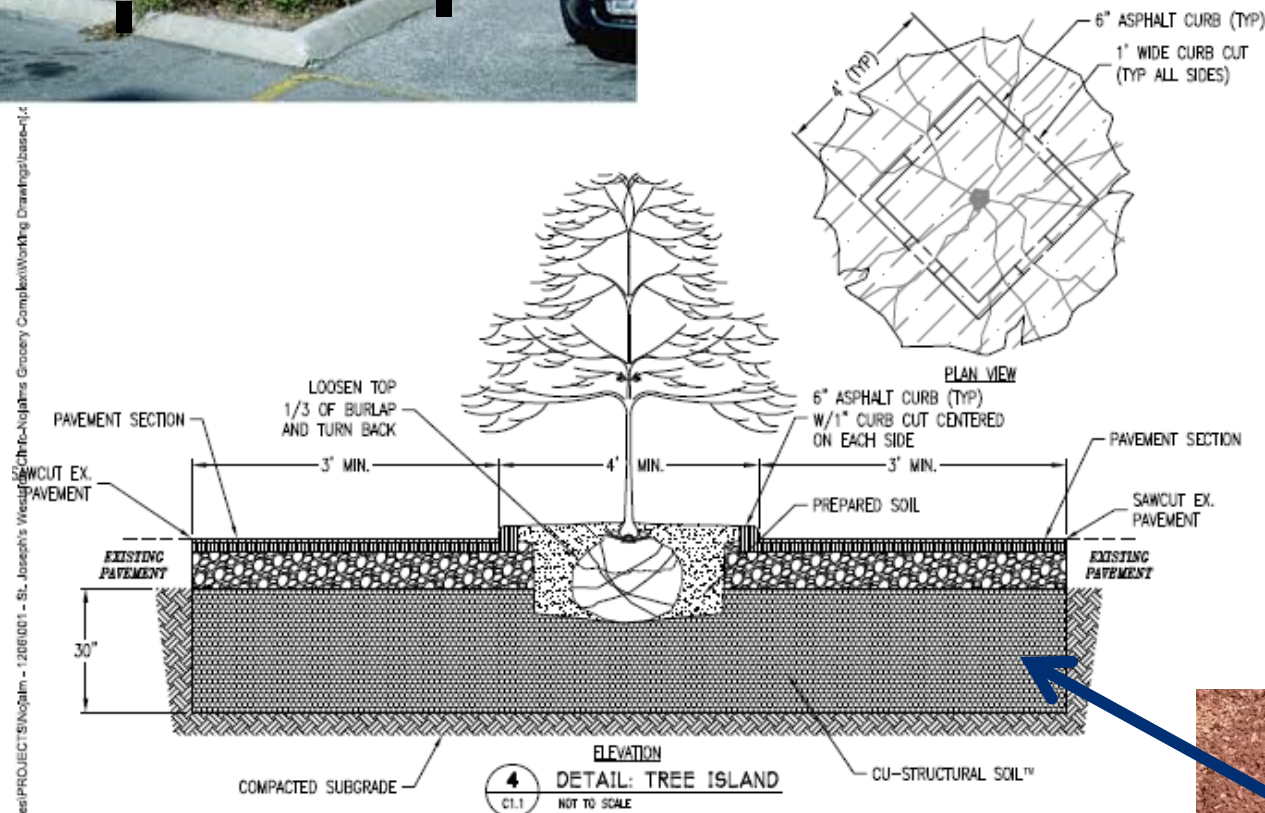
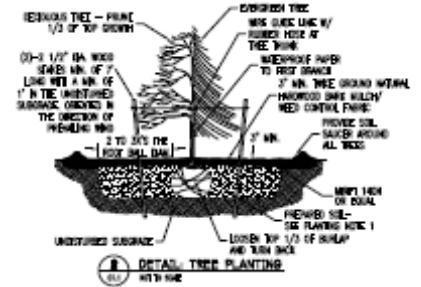


Using CU-Structural Soil™ in the Urban Environment



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Urban Horticulture Institute  
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134A Plant Science Building  
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[www.hort.cornell.edu/UHI](http://www.hort.cornell.edu/UHI)



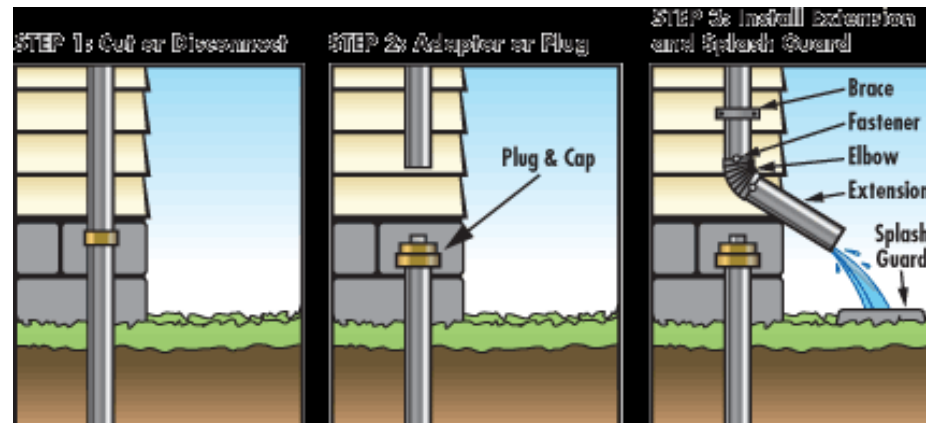


# Maintenance of Tree Planting/Preservation

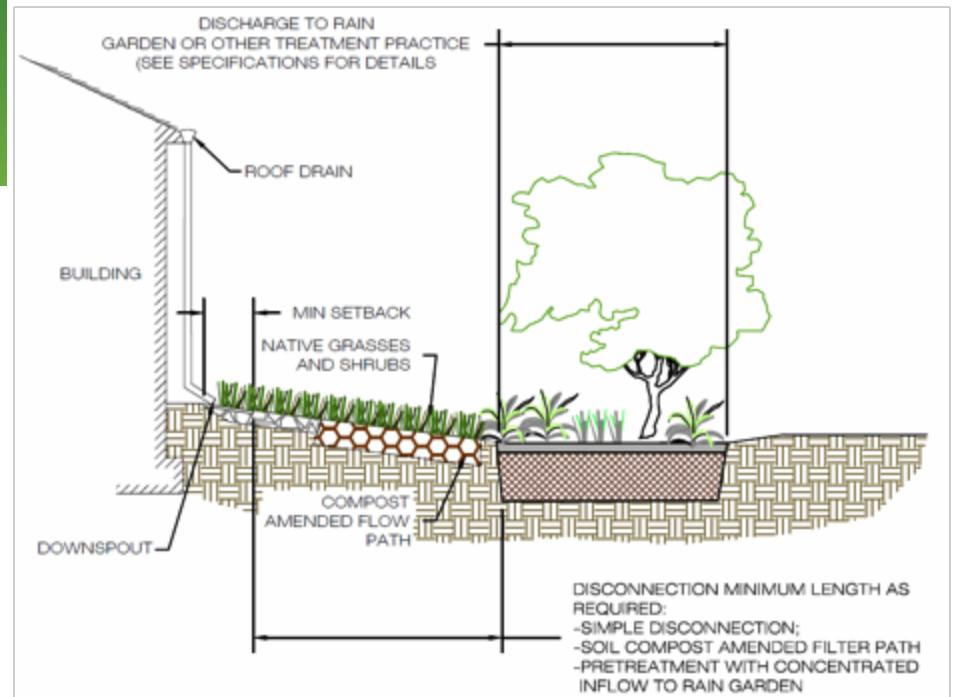
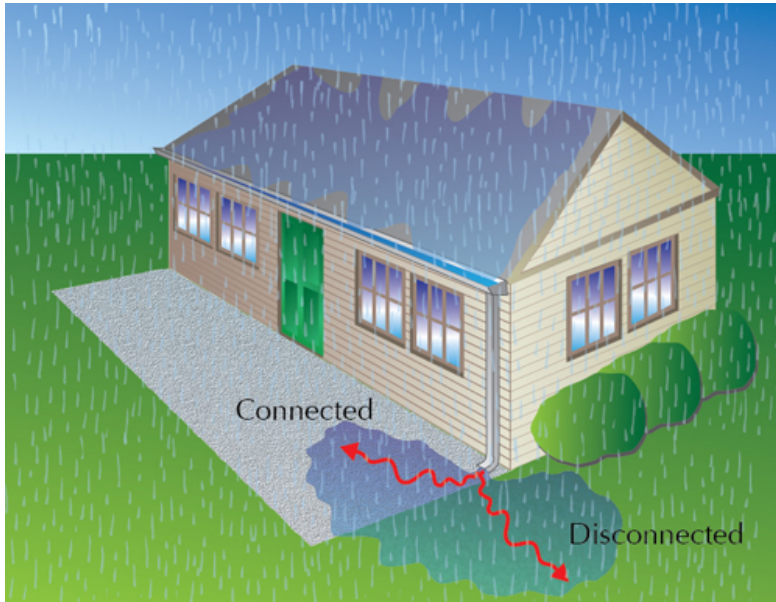
- Mulching/fertilizing
- Watering
- Pruning
- Protection
- Remediation of natural and human damage



# Disconnect Rooftop Areas



# Rooftop Disconnection





# Rooftop Disconnection

## Some Critical Elements

- Flow Dissipation
- Contributing surface area
- Flow distance
- Soils



Disconnect

# Yes, or No?



Disconnect

Nope.





Disconnect

Yup.



# Maintenance of Rooftop Disconnection

- Delineation
- Protection
- Enforcement
- Maintain Health
- Repair downspout erosion



# Porous/Permeable Pavement



A porous pavement parking lot (Source: Invisible Structures, no date)





# Porous /Permeable Pavement

## Some Critical Elements

- Porosity
- Underlying soils
- Sub base
- Contributing DA
- Cross Section
- Climate
- Use



# Porous/Permeable Pavement Materials





## P. Pavement





# Cross Sections

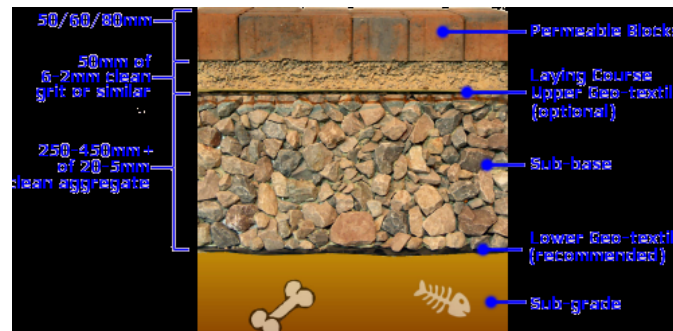
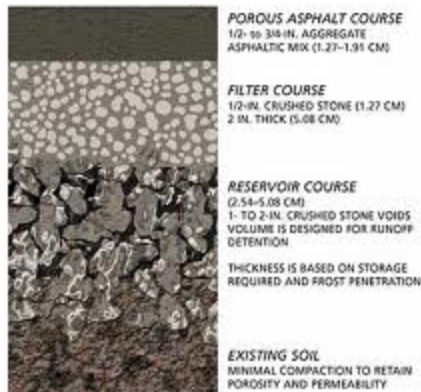
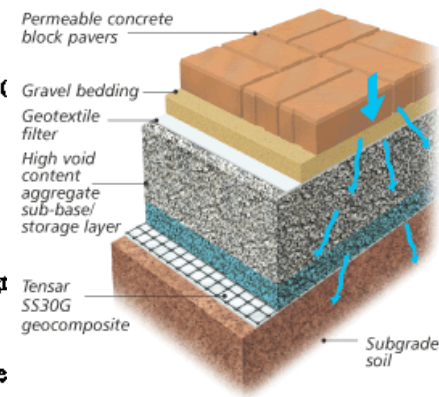
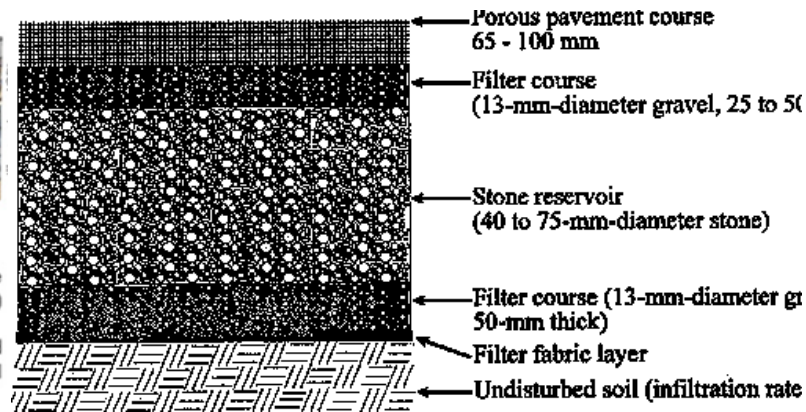
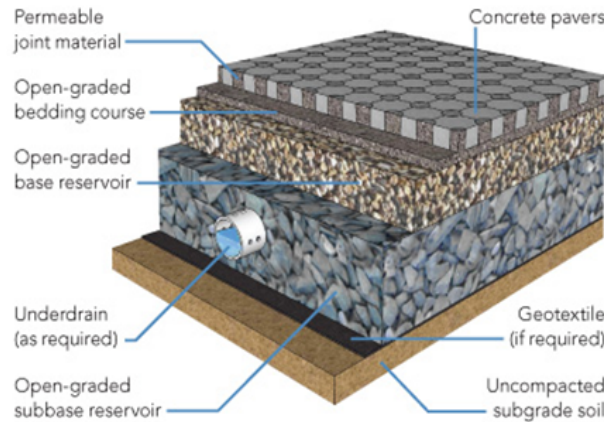
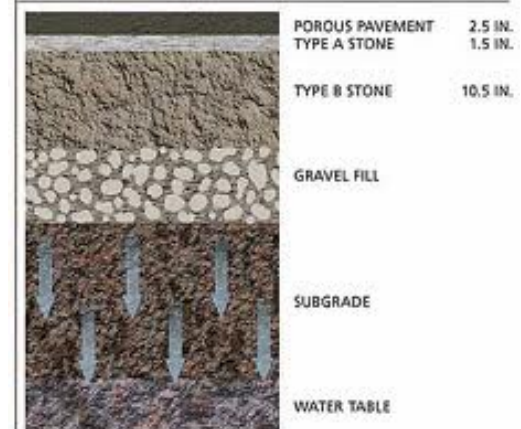


Figure 2. Walden Lot Cross-Section

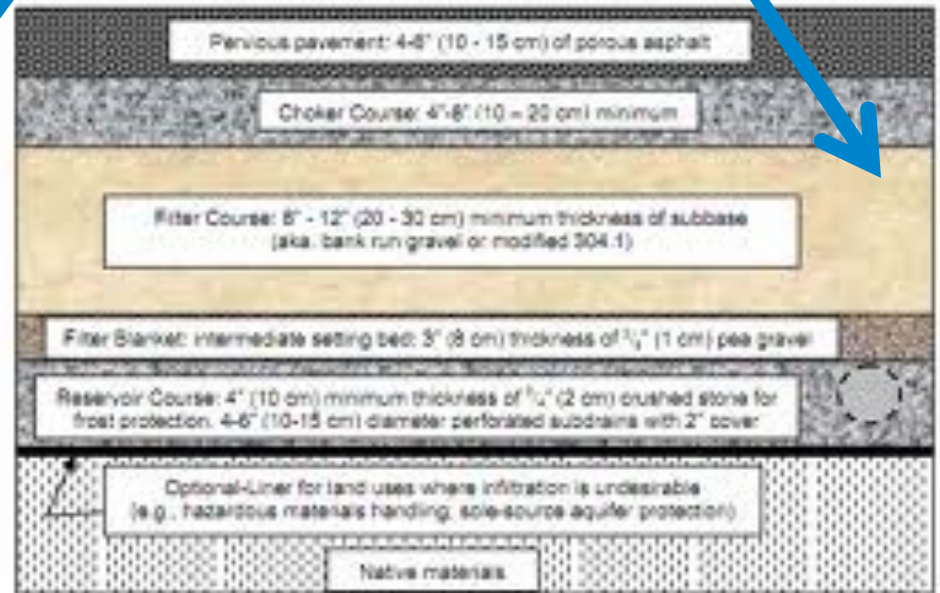


# NYDOT No. 3A or ASTM No. 2 Stone





# Maybe a Filter, too





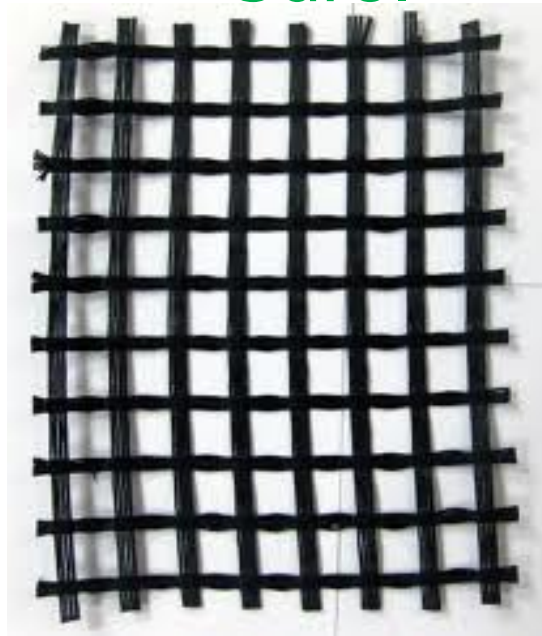
P. Pavement



?



Sure.



# No, or Yes, and Where?



Not much Treatment gonna  
happen here:





# Articulated/Precast Porous Pavers



# NYDOT

- Top Course Porous Asphalt
  - 475.5003
  - 475.5013
  - 475.5103
- Binder Course Porous Asphalt
  - 475.7009
  - 475.7019



# Beach Road, Lake George





# Cost Comparisons

Pavement	Cost per sq.ft. material (surface material only)
Standard Asphalt	\$2.40 to \$4.25
Porous Asphalt	\$2.75 to \$5.00 (\$9.50 for excavation, subgrade materials and labor)
Porous Concrete (8-in)	\$5.50 to \$9.00
Grass / gravel pavers	\$5.75 to \$7.25
Permeable Pavers	\$5.00 to \$12.00

- Costs for conventional paving do not incorporate SW mgmt costs (i.e reinforced concrete pipes, catch basins, outfalls)
  - \$9.50 and \$11.50 per square foot.



Permeable Pavers in the right situation





Permeable Pavers in the wrong situation

Source: Bill Hunt, NCSU

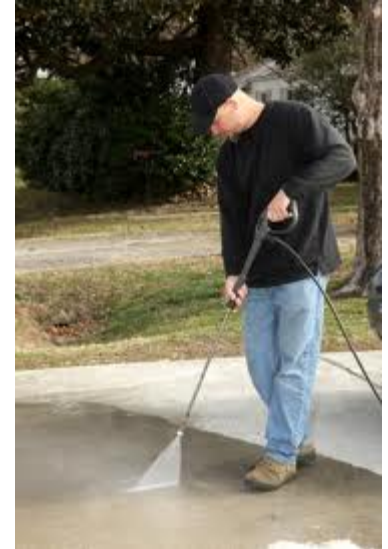


# Movement of Sediment



# Maintenance of Porous and Permeable Pavement

- Check voids
- Removal of Debris and sediment
- Vacuuming
- Power washing
- Sweeping
- Ability to De-water
- Repairs of deterioration, spalling, displacement
- Maintaining adjacent areas of run-on
- Restore paver block aggregate



# Winter Maintenance of Porous and Permeable Pavement

- Raise plow blade for pavers
- No road abrasives
- Reduced salt use
- No snow piles on PP





# Green Roofs



# Green Roofs

## Some Critical Elements

- Roof design
- Climate
- Irrigation
- Access
- Soil media
- Cross section
- Drainage
- Vegetation





Green Roof

Extensive

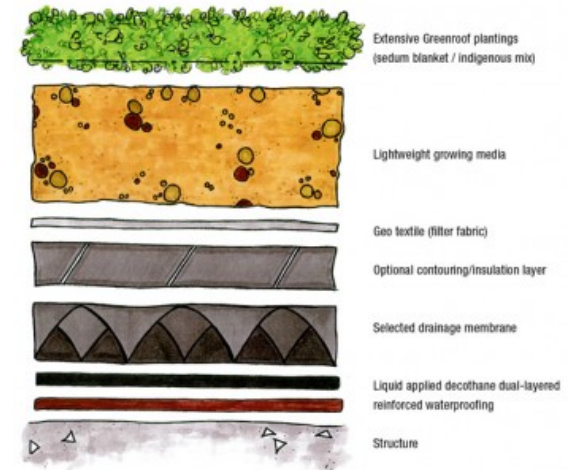
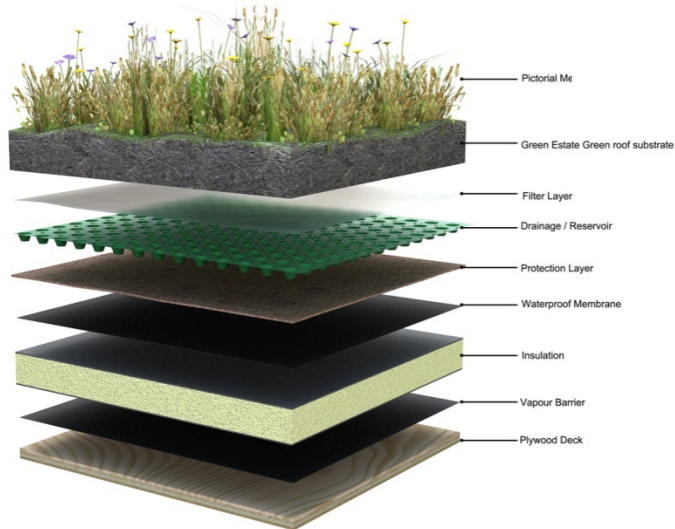
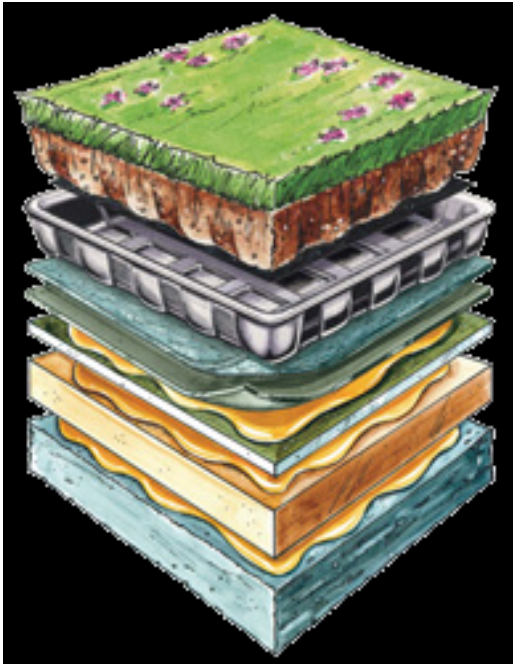


Intensive



Green Roof

# Cross Section





Green Roof

# Plant materials





# Soil Media



Green Roof





# Modular Systems





# Green Roofs





# Green Roofs





# Maintenance of Green Roofs

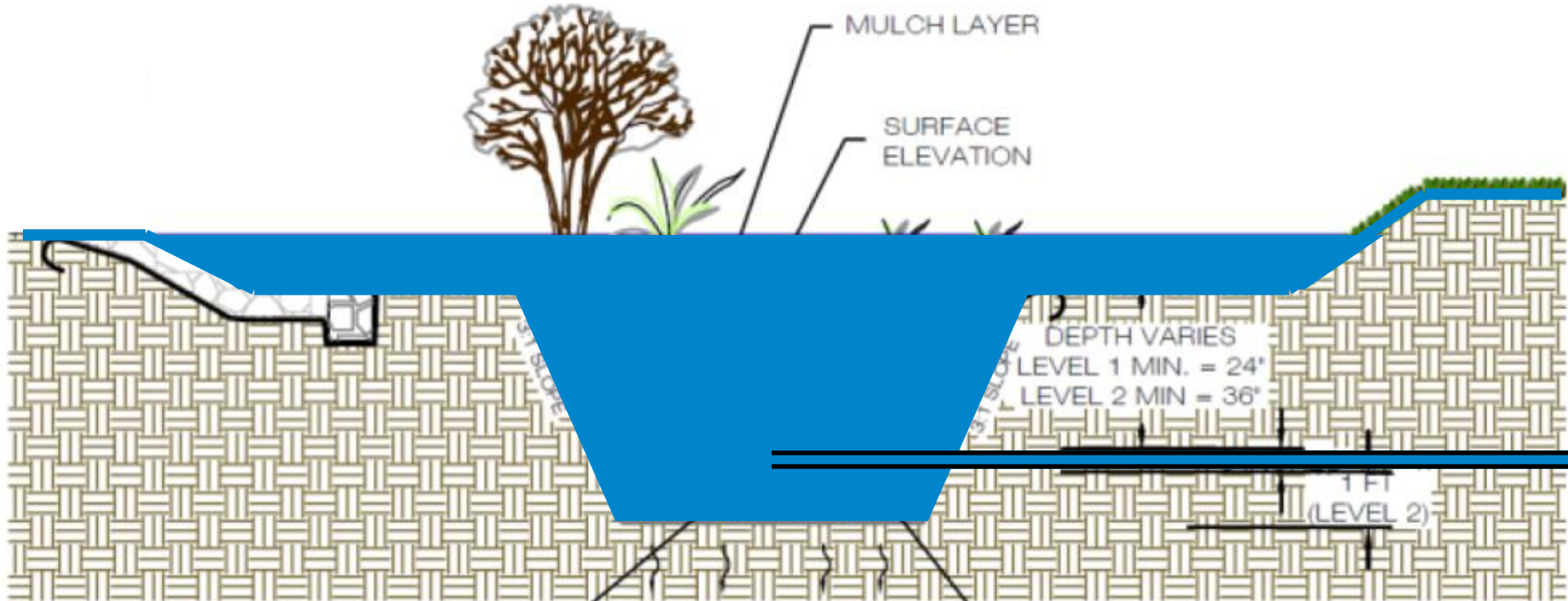
- Irrigation
- Weeding
- Fertilizing
- Drainage maintenance
- Plant replacement
- Membrane integrity



# Bioretention , Rain Gardens, Tree Trenches, Planters



# Bio-retention: How it Works



Runoff flows into a bioretention facility and temporarily ponds. Water then slowly filters through the filter bed and either is collected by the underdrain and sent to the storm sewer system or infiltrates into the surrounding area.



# Bioretention Areas



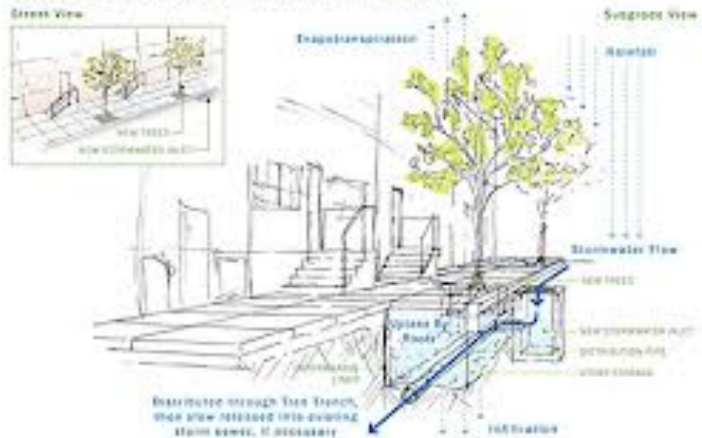
# Planters





# Tree Trench

## GREEN STREETS: STORMWATER TREE TRENCH





# Rain Gardens/Bio-retention/ Planters/Tree Trenches

## Some Critical Elements

- Inflow dissipation
- Flow bypass
- Soil media
- Surface area
- Ponding depth
- Geometry
- Vegetation
- Native soils
- Location
- Pre-treatment
- Drainage Area



# No, or Yes, and Where?



Bio-Rain



Bio/Rain

# Soil Mixture





# New york state criteria: bioretention media



- **Parameter Value**
- PH range 5.2 to 7.00
- Organic matter 1.5 to 4.0%
- Magnesium 35 lbs. per acre, minimum
- Phosphorus ( $P_2O_5$ ) 75 lbs. per acre, minimum
- Potassium ( $K_2O$ ) 85 lbs. per acre, minimum
- Soluble salts 500 ppm
- Clay 10 to 25%
- Silt 30 to 55%
- Sand 35 to 60%

# New Recommendations for Media Recipe\*



- Recipe for sand, soil and compost mix
  - 85% to 88% sand;
  - 8% to 12% soil fines; and
  - 3% to 5% organic matter.
  - More organic where trees are planted
  - Soil P Index less than 30

\* CWP et al....Differs from the NYSDEC Stormwater Design Manual

Nope





# Pretreatment



Grass Filter Strip



Grass Channel



Forebay



Stone Flow Spreader



Stone/Rip Rap Apron



Mulch

# ‘Bio-Typologies’

*Typology: “The taxonomic classification of characteristics common to buildings or spaces ...”*



**PERENNIAL GARDEN**



**TREE – TURF**



**PERENNIAL - SHRUB**



**TREE – SHRUB – MULCH**



# Other Types of Surface Cover



Stone/cobble



Stepping stones for pedestrian flow



Concrete cells – herbaceous



# No



# The LA Touch



# Aesthetics of Bioretention





# Aesthetics of Bioretention





# Aesthetics of Bioretention





# Aesthetics of Bioretention





# Aesthetics of Bioretention





# Stiff Stemmed Species









# Succession and Break- in Periods

















# Aesthetics





# Infancy to Maturity





# Cornell Ornithology Lab

A photograph of a wetland area. In the foreground, there is a muddy, brownish-grey ground with several small, shallow puddles of water. The ground is covered with some dry, yellowish-brown grass or straw. In the middle ground, there is a calm pond reflecting the surrounding trees. The pond is bordered by a line of trees and a red fence. The background is a dense forest of green trees. The sky is overcast and grey.

Summer 2002



Spring 2003

# Cornell Ornithology Lab





July 2003

# Cornell Ornithology Lab





Summer 2005

# Cornell Ornithology Lab





Early Fall 2007

# Cornell Ornithology Lab





Early Fall 2007

# Cornell Ornithology Lab





Early Fall 2007

# Cornell Ornithology Lab





August 2008

# Cornell Ornithology Lab





August 2008

# Cornell Ornithology Lab





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# Maintenance of Rain Garden/Biofilter/Tree Trench/Planters



- Occasional replacement of plants, mulching, weeding and thinning
- Watering essential the first year
- Keep plants pruned if they start to get “leggy” and floppy
- Cut off old flower heads after a plant is done blooming
- Keep free of bare areas except where stepping stones are located
- Inspect for sediment accumulations
- Replace top few inches of soil when water ponds for more than 48 hours
- Check for damage/failure of any wall, dam or berm and repair
- Correct any settlement or low spots
- Inspect and clean
- Debris and trash removal on a weekly or monthly basis
- Pruning and replacing dead or dying vegetation, plant thinning, and erosion repair

# Rain barrels/Cisterns





# Rain barrels/Cisterns

## Some Critical Elements

- Volume
- Climate
- Use
- Overflow



Barrels

# USE IT !

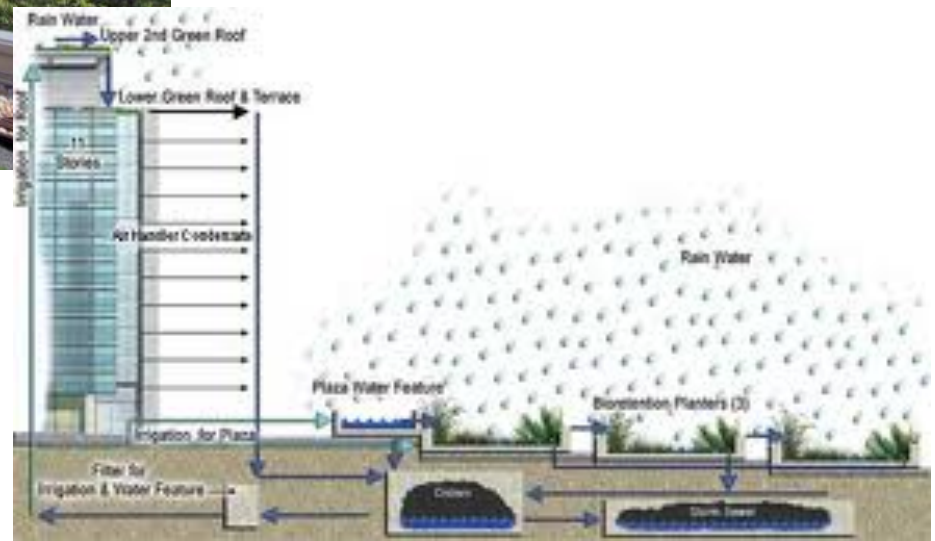




# Rain Barrel/Planter



# Cisterns and Green Roofs





# Crime Lab in Monroe County

## CISTERN, RAIN GARDEN, POROUS PAVEMENT



**1,500 Gallon  
Cistern**

**Collects Roof Water  
for Toilets and  
Mop Sinks**



**Finished Garden**





# Civic Center Parking Garage

## GREEN ROOF, CISTERN



Sod and Sedum



Civic Center Ariel View



2 x 10,000  
Gallon Cisterns



# War Memorial Cistern Reuse System



Reusing rainwater appears to allow the ice making to occur one to two degrees warmer than using potable water resulting in energy savings

# THE POST-STANDARD

SUNDAY, JANUARY 6, 2013

syracuse.com

## AN ECO SLAM-DUNK: FLUSHING WITH RAINWATER

ORANGE  
GOES  
GREEN BY  
DIVERTING  
SOME DOME  
RUNOFF  
TO TOILET  
SYSTEM

By Rick Moriarty  
Staff writer

The sea of orange inside Syracuse University's Carrier Dome on game days may soon flow like never before.

The university last month received a \$1.35 million state grant to install a system to collect the rainwater that runs off the fabric roof of the Carrier Dome, the 49,262-seat arena where SU's basketball, football and other teams play.

Approximately 880,000 of the 6.6 million gallons of water that pours off the Dome's 7-acre roof each year will be captured by the system and stored in tanks hung from the bottom of the arena's upper bleachers. During events at the Dome, the water

will be used to flush the toilets and urinals in the building's 16 public restrooms.

Building codes require the water to be dyed to avoid confusion with drinking water, even though the water will only be used in toilets and urinals. So university officials are considering coloring the water orange, the school's official color since 1890.

"We've been joking, wouldn't it be neat if we could color it orange?" said Eric Beattie, the university's director of campus planning, design and construction. "There's probably some room for discussion."

Blue, which SU uses as an unofficial accent color, is also a possibility, he said.

The university wants the public to notice the water harvesting system, and orange-colored water in the Dome's toilets and trough-style urinals would be hard to miss. Beattie said the project is intended as a demonstration of how such systems can conserve municipal water.

### FAST FACTS

Each of the four 5,000-gallon tanks that will hold rainwater captured from the Carrier Dome's roof will be about 8 feet in diameter and 10 feet long and weigh 42,000 pounds when full.



■ The tanks will hold enough water to flush the Dome's toilets and urinals during two major sporting events before they'll need more rainwater.



■ Enough rainwater and snowmelt runs off the Dome's 7-acre roof each year to fill 10 Olympic-size swimming pools.



■ The gutter that rings the bottom of the Dome's roof is wide enough to hold a car.



A 10-FOOT-WIDE GUTTER ringing the bottom of the Carrier Dome roof captures runoff and sends it into 36 drains that carry the water to the city's stormwater system. The water then goes to the county wastewater treatment plant and on to Onondaga Lake. Syracuse University plans to divert nearly 15 percent of the roof runoff and use it to flush Dome toilets and urinals.

Lauren Long / The Post-Standard, 2009

SYSTEM, PAGE A-8



# Maintenance of Rain Barrels

- Maintenance requirements vary depending on the end use
- Winterization maintenance may be necessary
- Routine inspections to ensure the system is available for rain events
- Inspect roof catchments for particulate matter or other contaminants
- Inspect the gutters and downspouts for leaks or obstructions
- Inspect diverts, cleanout plugs, screens, covers, and overflow pipes
- Inspect inflow and outflow pipes
- Inspect connectors to adjacent storage containers or a water pump



# Infiltration Practices





# INFILTRATION

## Some Critical Elements

- Soils
- Groundwater
- Pre-treatment
- Surface Area
- By - pass



# Underground Infiltration





# Infiltration Pre-treatment



Forebay





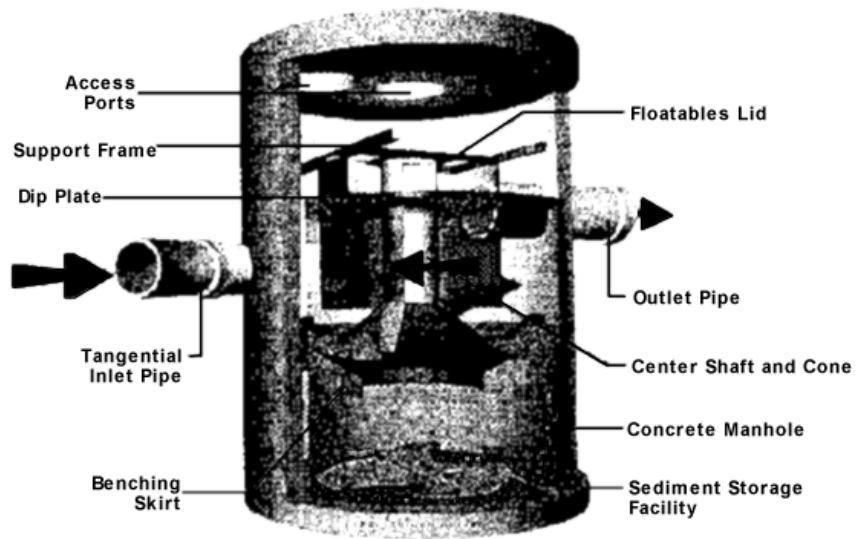
# Infiltration Pre-treatment



STONE  
TRENCH



# Infiltration Pre-treatment



SETTLING CHAMBERS  
AND  
MECHANICAL SEPARATORS



# No Infiltration Practices Here

( At least not without “enhanced” pretreatment)





# How Not to Build an Infiltration Practice







Not Going to  
Work!

08.14.2013



# Maintenance of Infiltration Practices

- Inspect and clean pre-treatment
- Monitor water levels
- Remove debris from exposed infiltration surfaces
- Maintain flow pathways



# Monitoring Ports for all Infiltration and Filtering Practices





# Swales







Swales



# Vegetated Swales





# Vegetated Swale





# Swales

## Some Critical Elements

- Flow volume and rate
- Soils
- Vegetation
- Geometry
- Slope
- Length
- Design



# Swales - Maintenance



## Maintenance Requirements

- Fertilize and lime as needed to maintain dense vegetation.
- Mow as required during the growing season to maintain grass heights at 4 inches to 6 inches.
- Remove any sediment or debris buildup by hand if possible in the bottom of the channel when the depth reaches 2 inches.
- Inspect for pools of standing water. Regrade to restore design grade and revegetate.
- Repair rills in channel bottom with compacted topsoil, anchored with mesh or filter fabric. Seed and mulch.



Putting it all together

# Infiltrating/Filtering Tree Trench w Permeable Pavement



Capitol Region's Water  
www.capitolregionwater.com





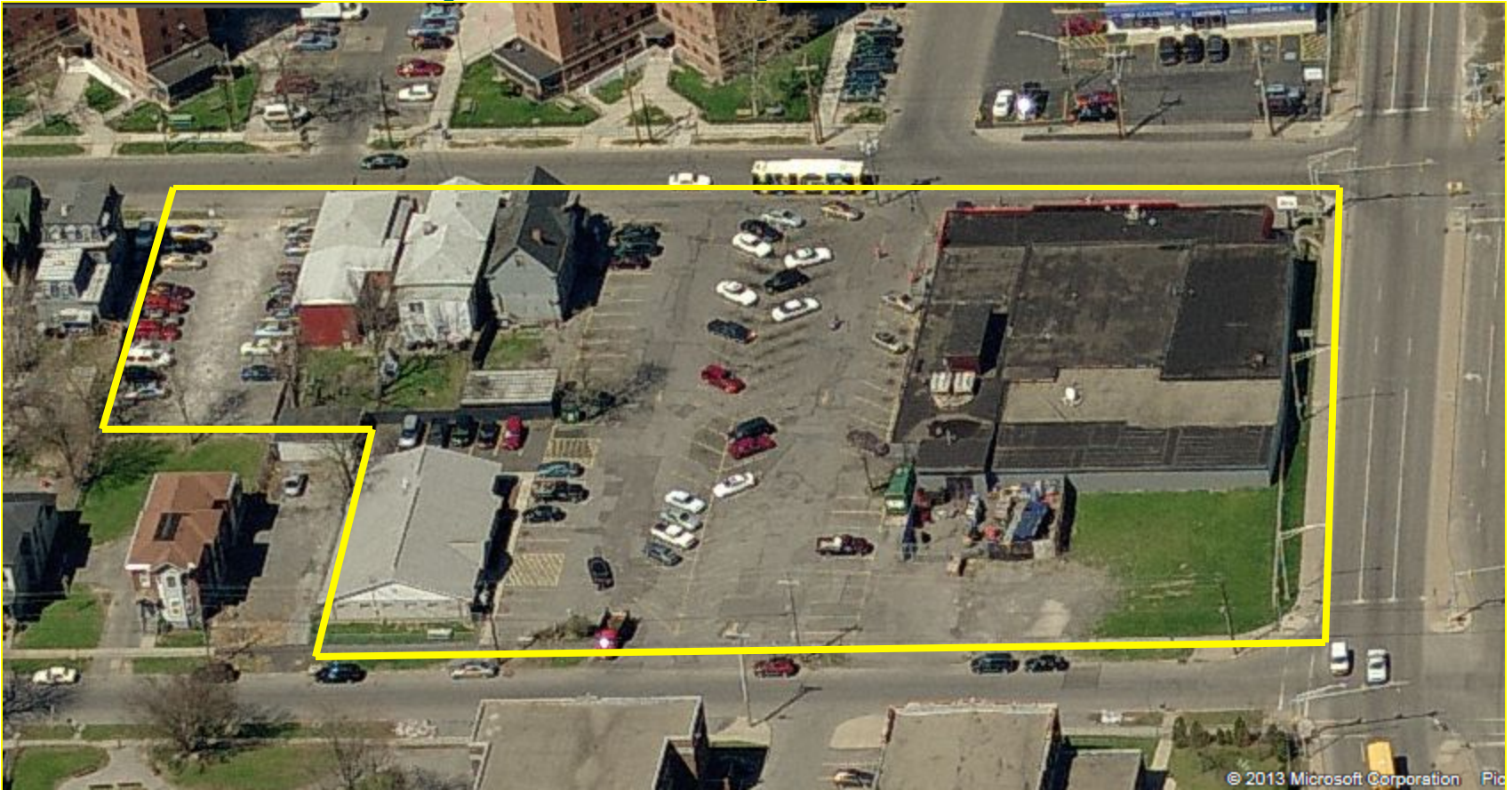




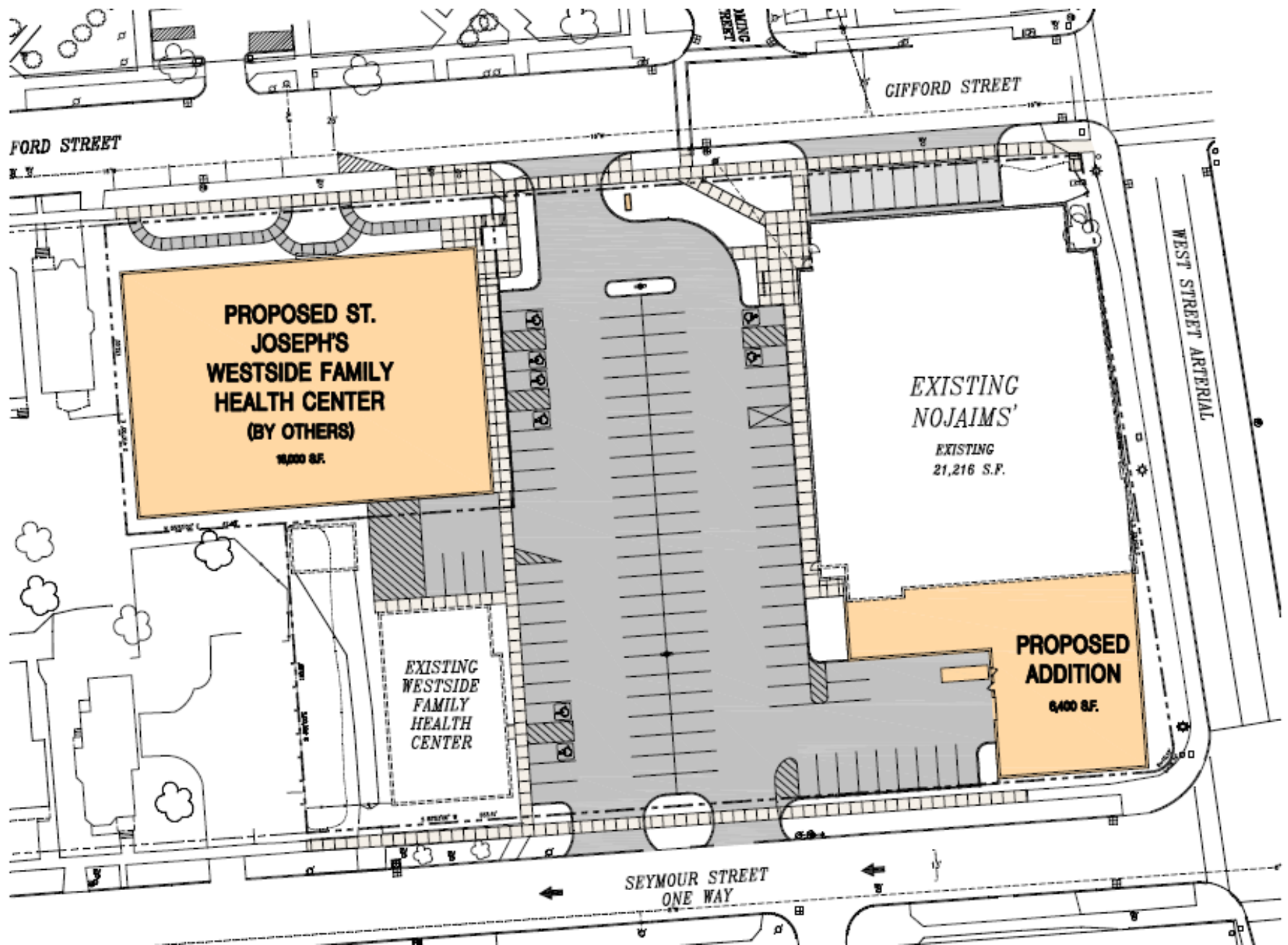




# Redevelopment/Retrofit Site







# Buying In To It!



GI is essential and Important!





- Green Roof
- Perm./porous pave
- Rain Garden
- Planters
- Rain Barrel/Cistern
- Infiltration
- Swales
- Bioretention
- Trees
- Filter strip
- Disconnection

\$200/c.f. of treatment.



\$1/c.f. of treatment.

# Typical GI unit costs:

- Rain garden - \$10/s.f.
- Bioretention - \$15/s.f.
- Underground infiltration - \$25/s.f.
- Green Roof - \$8/s.f.
- Porous Pavement - \$12/s.f.
- Tree planting - \$400 ea
- Tree trench/planter - \$25/s.f.
- Cistern - \$10/gal
- Drywell - \$10/gal
- Green space - \$5/s.f.







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