

From GLOSSARY

New York State Stormwater Management Design Manual (August, 2010)

## GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

In the context of stormwater management, the term green infrastructure **includes a wide array of practices at multiple scales** to manage and treat stormwater, maintain and restore natural hydrology and ecological function by infiltration, evapotranspiration, capture and reuse of stormwater, and establishment of natural vegetative features.

**On a regional scale**, green infrastructure is the preservation and restoration of natural landscape features, such as forests, floodplains and wetlands, coupled with policies such as infill and redevelopment that reduce overall imperviousness in a watershed or ecoregion.

**On the local scale** green infrastructure consists of site- and neighborhood-specific practices and runoff reduction techniques. Such practices essentially result in runoff reduction and or establishment of habitat areas with significant utilization of soils, vegetation, and engineered media rather than traditional hardscape collection, conveyance and storage structures. Some examples include green roofs, trees and tree boxes, pervious pavement, rain gardens, vegetated swales, planters, reforestation, and protection and enhancement of riparian buffers and floodplains.