

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

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Green infrastructure plays a critical role in protecting

our clean water. Stormwater runoff can be a major source of pollution in urban cities. In rural and undeveloped areas, rainwater is absorbed and filtered by the vegetation and soil in the area. In urban areas the rainwater is unable to be absorbed into the ground on our roofs, streets, and parking lots. Most of these urban areas are using outdated stormwater management systems that carry pollutants to our streams, rivers and beaches.

Green infrastructure uses vegetation, soils and other natural processes to manage water in an effort to create a cleaner and more pristine environment. Green infrastructure work should be done at both the city and neighborhood level. Cities are able to set up tree canopies and protect open spaces that are not only able to help mitigate the water quality and flooding impacts of urban stormwater but also provide recreational opportunities for city residents. Neighborhoods and private owners can use a variety of options such as planter boxes, bioswales, permeable pavements, and green roofs to help with stormwater management.

Private companies that are looking to build out sites should ensure that they are using green infrastructure in their designs. A green roof can be cost effective for stormwater management and air quality and can also reduce energy use by absorbing heat for the building. Green parking lots can utilize both permeable pavements and bioswales in the medians. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) provides grants for people that are interested in implementing green infrastructure.

Many state and cities have also implemented ambitious grant programs. The New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has recently announced that in 2013 up to \$6 million will be available for green infrastructure projects such as green roofs, porous pavements, and rainwater harvesting. There is still time to apply for these grants.

At Priyamvada Sustainability Consulting, we can help you with green infrastructure implementation – creating a win-win for the environment while also adding cost saving technology and innovation to your projects. We will work with your business to see what financing, design, and structures are right for you.



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