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Reference: Green Infrastructure Stormwater Workshop

On October 28, 2014 The Massachusetts Bay National Estuary Program (MassBays) and the Association to Preserve Cape Cod (APCC) held a Green Infrastructure Stormwater workshop at the Barnstable County Complex in Barnstable, MA. The focus of the workshop was to present a new Coastal Stormwater Management through Green Infrastructure handbook which provides information about water quality in coastal ecosystems. This handbook was developed in partnership with EPA for use by municipalities.

The first part of the presentation discussed general issues stormwater can cause to coastal water bodies. Primarily the pollutants stormwater systems send directly to public waterways and the lack of infiltration recharging our groundwater sources. Green infrastructure not only uses the vegetation and soil to manage the rainwater where it falls, it also can provide flood mitigation and air quality management if used properly. The presentation outlined the watershed assessment process which is used to identify where within a watershed green infrastructure should be focused. This process includes gathering hydrologic data, hydraulic data and pollutant loading data to identify which best management practices (BMPs) and green infrastructure practices would be most effective for the watershed. The watershed assessment process is useful because once complete you will have identified multiple locations where it is feasible to use green infrastructure practices and prioritize which sites require more immediate attention.

The afternoon session primarily focused on the different types of BMPs and green infrastructure technologies. These included vegetated filter strips, bioretention, constructed stormwater wetlands, tree box filters, sand filters, vegetated swales, rain barrels, green roofs and permeable pavement. These processes make use of physical and/or biological filtration to provide natural treatment and retainage to allow the stormwater to infiltrate the ground. Specific information regarding the different BMPs is provided in Chapter 5 of the Coastal Stormwater Management through Green Infrastructure handbook. A checklist was also provided which outlines steps that should be considered during the green infrastructure plan review process.

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Design with community in mind



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Attachment: 1) massbays-handbook-10-10-14
2) Green Infrastructure_Stormwater_Design Checklist
3) Stormwater Fact Sheet

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