



**American Rivers**  
*Thriving By Nature*

# Using Funds Wisely – Promoting Green Infrastructure

**Katherine Baer**

1101 14th Street, NW, Suite 1400  
Washington, DC 20005  
[www.americanrivers.org](http://www.americanrivers.org)

p 202.347.7550  
f 202.347.9240



# American Rivers

- Founded in 1973 to protect and restore America's rivers
- 65,000 supporters nationwide
- DC Headquarters, staff located in the mid-Atlantic, Northeast, Midwest, Southeast, California and Pacific Northwest
- Rated one of the top charities in America by the Wise Giving Alliance of the Better Business Bureau





# American Rivers' Campaigns

- Healthy Waters
- River Renewal
- Water For Life
- River Heritage



Innovate



Science



Collaborate

Advocate





# What is Green Infrastructure

- Approaches that preserve or recreate natural landscape features to capture and infiltrate stormwater.
  - Use vegetation and soils
  - Facilitates and mimics natural processes
  - Can be used with traditional infrastructure



# Why Green Infrastructure

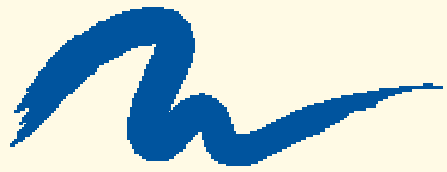
- Cleaner water
- Enhanced water supplies
- Cleaner air
- Reduced urban temperatures
- Increased energy efficiency
- Improved quality of life
- Cost savings



# Examples

## Rain Gardens





# Infiltration



Photo courtesy of Low Impact Development Center



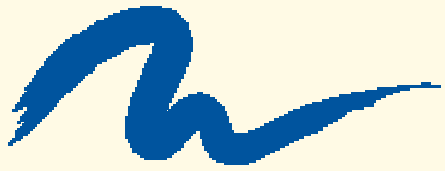
# Green Roofs





# Green Parking





# Chicago, Illinois

- More than 80 green roofs totaling over 1 million square feet.
- A 2003 study found green roof runoff volume was less than half that of conventional roofs.
- Subsidized rain barrel program used to reduce basement flooding and CSO volume.

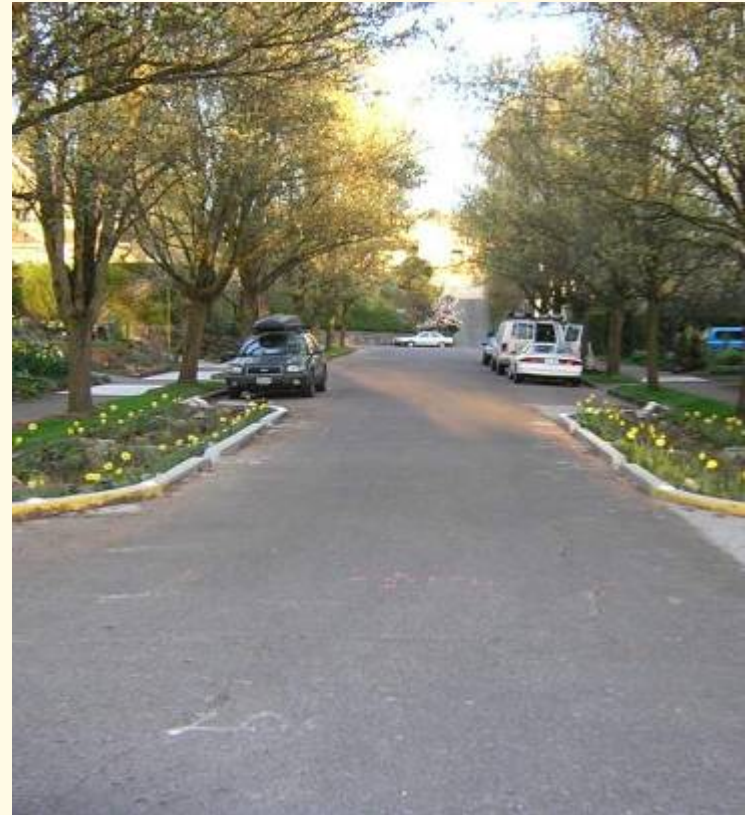


Chicago City Hall Green Roof. *Photo courtesy of Roofscapes, Inc.*



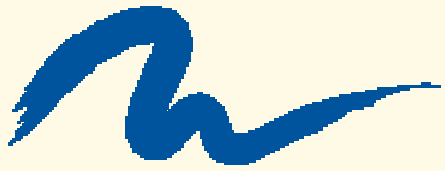
# Portland, Oregon

- City code requires on-site stormwater management for new and re-development.
- Zoning bonus allows additional building square footage for buildings with a green roof.
- Subsidized downspout disconnection program infiltrates 1 billion gallons of rainwater annually.



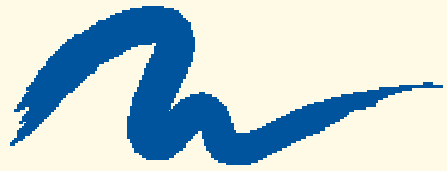
*Vegetated Curb Extensions. Photo courtesy of the Portland Bureau of Environmental Services.*

Slide courtesy of Low Impact Development Center



# Strong EPA Support

- Green Infrastructure Statement of Intent
- Signed by EPA, ASWIPCA, NACWA, NRDC & LIDC
- Develop strategies to promote use of green infrastructure:
  - Permits, technical guidance, funding



# Incentives via SRF

- Eligible activity
- Integrate green infrastructure as part of project planning process
- Lower interest rates
- Longer payback periods



## Resources

- Catching the Rain – [www.americanrivers.org](http://www.americanrivers.org)
- Rooftops to Rivers – [www.nrdc.org](http://www.nrdc.org)



# American Rivers

*Thriving By Nature*

For more information, please contact:

Katherine Baer  
Director, Healthy Waters Campaign  
American Rivers  
202.347.7550 x 3053  
[kbaer@americanrivers.org](mailto:kbaer@americanrivers.org)