THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL BENEFITS OF

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

NY/NJ BAYKEEPER
Protect Preserve Restore

NEWARK DIG
doing infrastructure green

REDUCED FLOODING

BY INCREASING PERVIOUS GROUND COVER, STORMWATER INFILTRATION RATES INCREASE, REDUCING THE VOLUME OF RUNOFF ENTERING OUR COMBINED OR SEPARATE SEWER SYSTEMS.

STORMWATER POLLUTANT REDUCTIONS

WHEN THE VOLUME OF RUNOFF ENTERING OUR SEWER SYSTEMS IS REDUCED, STORMWATER POLLUTANTS ARE REDUCED AS WELL. GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE TECHNIQUES INFILTRATE RUNOFF CLOSE TO ITS SOURCE AND HELP PREVENT POLLUTANTS FROM BEING TRANSPORTED TO SURFACE WATERS.

IMPROVED WATER QUALITY

USING RETENTION CAPABILITIES, GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE LIMITS THE FREQUENCY OF SEWER OVERFLOW EVENTS AND POLLUTING DISCHARGES INTO WATERWAYS.

CARBON DIOXIDE SEQUESTRATION

CARBON DIOXIDE IS GENERATED WHEN FOSSIL FUELS ARE BURNED TO GENERATE ELECTRICITY. GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE TECHNIQUES SEQUESTER CARBON, REDUCING THE AMOUNT OF CO2 IN THE ATMOSPHERE AND MITIGATING THE GREENHOUSE GAS EFFECT.

URBAN HEAT ISLAND MITIGATION

URBAN HEAT ISLANDS ARE FORMED WHEN NATURAL LAND COVER IS REPLACED WITH PAVEMENT AND BUILDINGS THAT ABSORB AND RETAIN HEAT. STRATEGIC PLACEMENT OF TREESAND VEGETATION INCREASES NATURAL COOLING EFFECTS.

IMPROVED AIR QUALITY AND HUMAN HEALTH

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE VEGETATIVE TECHNIQUES ABSORB CERTAIN POLLUTANTS FROM THE AIR AND CAN SLOW THE TEMPERATURE-DEPENDENT REACTION THAT FORMS SMOG. GENERAL GREENNESS IS ASSOCIATED WITH INCREASED PHYSICAL ACTIVITY, A MORE POSITIVE OUTLOOK, AND INCREASED FOCUS AND SOCIAL INTERACTION.

ADDITIONAL WILDLIFE HABITAT AND RECREATIONAL SPACE

PARKS, TREES, AND BIOSWALES MAXIMIZE HABITAT FOR WILDLIFE, RECREATIONAL ACCESS, AND COMMUNITY LIVABILITY. RECREATIONAL SPACE IS LINKED TO REDUCED CRIME RATES AND INCREASED SOCIAL CAPITAL.