



Extension-Sea Grant Green Infrastructure Community of Practice

Proposed framework

Purpose

To support Extension and Sea Grant professionals who provide outreach and education on municipal and private green infrastructure and stormwater management practices to local decision makers, business owners, K-12 educators and students, and individual homeowners in the 15 states that make up the Extension North Central Region and Sea Grant Great Lakes Network.

This communities uses the National Green Infrastructure Certification Program definition: 'Stormwater management practices that protect, restore, or mimic the natural water cycle are referred to as **green infrastructure** (GI). [GI] is a collection of engineered systems that utilize natural or "**green**" approaches to manage stormwater locally.'

Members

Extension and Sea Grant Professionals working in the following states:

- Illinois
- Indiana
- Iowa
- Kansas
- Michigan
- Minnesota
- Missouri
- Nebraska
- New York
- North Dakota
- Ohio
- Pennsylvania
- South Dakota
- Wisconsin
- Vermont

Goals

- Share successful and effective GI and stormwater education programs and training methods.
- Discuss and develop new products or programs to meet our needs as Extension and Sea Grant professionals.
- Collaborate on GI and stormwater education and training opportunities.



Objectives

- Share and cross-train Extension and Sea Grant professionals on models, methods, and tools to understand and assess GI and stormwater policies, codes, and ordinances, and on effective GI extension and outreach to community leaders, business owners, K-12 teachers and students, and others.
- Help communities:
 - understand and use GI to minimize stormwater runoff and its potential impacts to the built and natural environment;
 - maximize the societal co-benefits associated with GI, including environmental literacy, workforce development, and diversity, equity, and inclusion; and
 - be more responsive and resilient to environmental and population changes over time.

Network activities

- Monthly network calls – Start in April 2021
 - Network calls will allow time to discuss a topic of interest, to hear from states with updates on programming, and to network with professionals in other states
- Web Resources
 - Directory of members
 - Meeting schedule and registration form
 - Directory of programs and resources for people new to the network
 - Calendar of upcoming webinars and programs of interest
- Possible conference or multi-day training
 - Looking into early 2022 or in conjunction with other conferences

Planning and Leadership

- The GI CoP steering committee will include:
 - John Bilotta, University of Minnesota Water Resources Center and Minnesota Sea Grant
 - Eliana Brown, University of Illinois Extension and Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant
 - Thomas Cermak, Pennsylvania Sea Grant
 - Meaghan Gass, Michigan Sea Grant
 - Martha Gerig, Michigan Sea Grant
 - John McMaine, South Dakota State University Extension
 - Lisa Merrifield, GI CoP Facilitator, University of Illinois Extension
 - Rebecca Power, North Central Regional Water Network
 - Kara Salazar, Purdue University Extension and Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant
 - Chiara Zuccarino-Crowe, Michigan Sea Grant
- The steering committee will reassess organizational structure on an ongoing basis and adjust as needed.