

Action Implementation Blueprints



ACTION NAME

Increase the use of green infrastructure and low impact development.

DESCRIPTION OF ACTION

Green infrastructure and low impact development in new construction, existing buildings, and residential spaces help to manage stormwater runoff, provide green space for recreation, integrate nature-based solutions, and improve resilience to climate change. This action is to identify and implement policies to increase the use of green infrastructure and low impact development in Concord.

CHAMPION

Department of Land Use Management & Concord Public Works

IMPLEMENTATION STEPS

PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

TIME FRAME

KEY PARTNERS

1. Research best practices and code examples in green infrastructure and low impact development (e.g. bioswales, green roofs, lot surface permeability).

2020-2021

- Concord Public Works' Engineering Division
- Planning
- Natural Resources
- Sustainability

2. Conduct town wide assessment of high-benefit areas for green infrastructure installations.

2020-2021

- Concord Public Works' Engineering Division IT/GIS Division
- Planning
- Buildings and Inspections
- External consultant

3. Determine desired planning and code requirements based on project type, size, and cost thresholds and present draft policy recommendations to the Town.

2021-2023

- Concord Public Works' Engineering Division
- Planning
- Buildings and Inspections
- Select Board
- Consultant

4. Finalize and launch town planning/code requirements for green infrastructure and low impact development in new construction, retrofits, and residential areas.

2021-2023

- Concord Public Works' Engineering Division Planning
- Buildings and Inspections
- Local architecture and construction businesses
- Neighborhood associations

5. Develop and distribute educational materials and design guidelines for residential and commercial spaces.

2021-2023

- Concord Public Works' Engineering Division
- Planning
- Natural Resources
- Sustainability
- Neighborhood associations
- Local architecture and construction businesses
- Community based organizations

Increase the use of green infrastructure and low impact development.



FINANCING RESOURCES AND MECHANISMS

- EPA Urban Small Waters Grants Program
- NFWF/Wells Fargo Resilient Communities Grant Program
- [Massachusetts stormwater project funding programs](#)

TRADEOFFS (CHALLENGES/BARRIERS)

- Increased capital costs
- Variability of site-specific hydrogeology
- Increased Operation/Maintenance needs
- Stormwater regulations
- Contractors with expertise in green alternatives for residential locations

EQUITY CONSIDERATIONS

- Prioritize implementation of green infrastructure projects in areas of highest impact first.
- Consider program that allows for off-site equivalencies.

TRACKING SUCCESS

Outputs:

- List of identified priority locations for green infrastructure projects
- Implementation of new town codes and regulations
- Educational materials and design guidelines for implementation

Outcomes:

- Improved water quality
- Improved air quality
- Habitat for wildlife/biodiversity
- Reduction in localized temperature extremes

ENGAGING THE COMMUNITY

- Coordinate with homeowners associations
- Provide trainings to residents, building contractors and landscape contractors
- Plan community volunteer days to help implement green infrastructure techniques