

Overview of the Green Infrastructure Study

Illinois EPA Meeting
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Background

- **P.A. 96-0026**, Green Infrastructure for Clean Water Act, signed into law in summer, 2009.
- A **Green Infrastructure Study** is mandated under § 15
 - **Illinois EPA** to report to General Assembly by June 30, 2010 – we are advising Illinois EPA on this report
 - Report to review “the latest available scientific and institutional knowledge to evaluate and document” Green Infrastructure practices for urban stormwater management
 - Illinois EPA contracted with UIC, the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, the Center for Neighborhood Technology, and the Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant College Program to undertake the study

Green Infrastructure Study

- UIC, CMAP, CNT and Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant developed their work programs and budgets during the summer, and began work on the study in September (research now about 40% over)
- We'd appreciate your advice concerning:
 - whether we're looking at the right things and
 - whether some of the things we're looking at should be emphasized over others

Scope of the Study: UIC

- (a) Nature and extent of urban stormwater impacts on **water quality** in watersheds in Illinois
- (b) ...the **effectiveness** of green infrastructure practices to achieve such standards.
- (g) The feasibility and consequences of **devoting 20% of the Water Revolving Fund** to Green Infrastructure, water and energy efficiency improvements and **other environmentally innovative activities** on a long-term basis [UIC with assistance from CNT]

Scope of Study: CNT

- (d) The **costs and benefits** of green vs. grey infrastructure.
- (e) Existing and potential **new urban storm water management regulatory programs** and methods and feasibility of integrating a State program with existing and potential regional and local programs in Illinois
- (f) Findings and recommendations for adopting an urban storm water management regulatory program in Illinois which includes **performance standards** and **encourages the use of green infrastructure** to achieve those standards.

Scope of Study: CMAP

- (b) Potential **urban storm water management performance standards** to address flooding, water pollution, stream erosion, habitat quality...
- (c) The **prevalence of green infrastructure use** in Illinois

Scope of the Study: IISGCP

- Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant College Program part of U-Illinois Extension – outreach and training mission
- Will develop Green Infrastructure **training materials and a dissemination plan** for Illinois EPA over the summer, 2010
 - Directed to downstate local government officials
 - Directed to downstate Regional Planning Agencies