

STORMWATER

Tip of the Week Week 12 - March 22, 2022

GREEN VS. GREY INFRASTRUCTURE

There are basically two categories of stormwater infrastructure. Green infrastructure versus grey infrastructure and the difference comes down to a simple matter of whether the infrastructure tries to control nature or uses its natural processes to design solutions.

Grey infrastructure tries to control nature and includes the pipes, pumps, ditches, and detention ponds engineered by people to manage stormwater in efforts to pull stormwater away from buildings, into drains. Those stormwater drains lead directly to our local streams, rivers, and lakes untreated; picking up trash, debris, and pollutants along the way. That is why adding green infrastructure and stormwater management practices to your properties can help fight against water pollution, erosion, and even flooding.

Green infrastructure uses nature so it refers to projects that draw from nature to achieve desired results, like helping stormwater runoff soak into the ground naturally to ease flooding and prevent water pollution, such as green roofs, rain gardens, permeable pavers, and planting trees. Green infrastructure has become a popular way to implement stormwater management as it also positively impacts air quality, carbon reduction, flooding, water pollution, and heat stress.

