Executive Order: 2013-01
Citywide Green Stormwater Infrastructure Goal & Implementation Strategy

An Executive Order directing City departments to coordinate to develop an implementation strategy for managing 700 million gallons of stormwater annually with green stormwater infrastructure approaches by 2025.

Green stormwater infrastructure (GSI) as a critical aspect of a sustainable drainage system, because it is a proven water quality and flood prevention strategy and also because it provides additional community benefits and public value, including green space, urban tree canopy recovery, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and increased pedestrian and bicycle safety.

Seattle, more than a decade ago, was the first city in the nation to implement a successful GSI project in the public right-of-way, the SEA- Streets project. Since the SEA-Streets, Seattle has continued to innovate and lead the nation in the development and delivery of high-performing GSI projects and programs including: the Broadview and Pinehurst Green Grids, the Highpoint redevelopment effort, the Rainwise Program, Swale on Yale, and Seattle Green Factor.

While Seattle has made excellent progress over the last decade with GSI, there is currently no citywide GSI goal or implementation strategy. Both will be required to take the City's efforts to the next level, and to help Seattle continue to lead and innovate in the rapidly evolving field of urban green infrastructure

Therefore, I am issuing this executive order to establish a citywide GSI goal of 700 million gallons of stormwater managed annually with GSI by 2025, and to direct the Office of Sustainability and Environment (OSE) to lead a process with City departments to develop a GSI Implementation Plan by June 30, 2014 that outlines a coordinated approach for achieving the GSI goal.

As part of the process to develop the GSI Implementation Plan, I also direct the following:

1) Seattle Public Utilities (SPU), Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT), and Department of Planning Development (DPD) to collaborate with OSE to establish a coordinated approach for the integration of GSI in the public right-of-way, including:

    - Collaborating on Neighborhood Greenways definition, siting criteria, design standards and coordinating on other integrated streetscape efforts such as Complete Streets and Green Streets designation.
    - Articulating design standards for the use of GSI within areas restricted from parking, including near fire hydrants and within 30 feet of stop signs.
    - Developing a package of standard designs for GSI installations in the public right-of-way that addresses a range of neighborhood streetscape aesthetics, object markers and other signage requirements, design options for narrow rights-of-way, safety, maintenance, tree canopy recovery goals, and regulatory requirements.
    - Engaging residents in making right-of-way prioritization decisions in light of broad community goals for creating livable, walkable, green neighborhoods.
    - Developing viable strategies for long-term public-private partnerships to ensure on-going GSI maintenance, particularly for voluntary projects (non code-triggered, non-Capital Improvement Project)

- Developing an option for SPU's integrated municipal stormwater and wastewater planning effort ("Integrated Plan") that integrates pedestrian goals and stormwater goals within urban creek watersheds.

2) Seattle Public Utilities (SPU), Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT), Department of Planning and Development (DPD), Department of Parks and Recreation (Parks), Seattle City Light (SCL), and Department of Finance and Administrative Services (FAS) to collaborate with OSE to develop a coordinated approach for integration of GSI citywide, including:

   - Examining and revising their development-related codes, rules and standards to prioritize the use of GSI where technically feasible and aligned with urban development priorities and to remove barriers that may exist.
   - Demonstrating continued City leadership by ensuring capital projects implement GSI to the maximum extent that is technically feasible and aligned with development priorities
   - Conducting an economic valuation study of Seattle's built green stormwater infrastructure that considers public and private benefits beyond water quality benefits.

3) OSE to work with appropriate City departments to investigate on-going GSI leadership opportunities, including:

   - Identifying and promoting living-wage job opportunities created by increased implementation of GSI.
   - Demonstrating the feasibility of 'zero stormwater impact' GSI designs in residential, commercial, and right-of-way settings.
   - Evaluating the efficacy of next-generation best management practices for green stormwater infrastructure that would aid Seattle in reaching the 2025 target.
   - Identifying unique and promising near-term City capital projects that would provide an opportunity for Seattle to demonstrate leadership on GSI above and beyond what is triggered by development projects that are subject to the Stormwater Code.

4) Department Directors named in this Order to assign staff to participate in the coordinated development of the GSI Implementation Plan and to participate in executive-level, interdepartmental decision-making on GSI strategies and implementation, including:
   - Identifying best management practices for the planning, siting, design, construction, maintenance, and tracking of green stormwater infrastructure facilities.
   - Resolving administrative and code-related barriers to green stormwater infrastructure implementation.
   - Advancing GSI implementation through updates to development-related codes, rules, and standards.

Dated this 4th day of March,2013.

Michael McGinn
Mayor, City of Seattle