

PUBLIC INPUT SOUGHT ON CITY OF MIDDLETOWN'S DOWNTOWN

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

The City of Middletown, in cooperation with Orange County Soil and Water Conservation District, Lehman and Getz Engineering and other partners, is developing plans for multiple Green Infrastructure (GI) measures in the Downtown area and seeking funding assistance from New York State for their installation.

The lead project will involve retrofitting the heavily used James Street parking lot to a modern design that collects, treats and infiltrates stormwater runoff, focusing on plant-based practices that also improve air quality and aesthetics. Two additional parking lots with GI measures are planned for Orchard Street. All three parking lot projects will be integrated with the recently completed King Street Green Street project, the planned extension of the Heritage Trail and other exciting improvements the City with various partners is pursuing in the Downtown area.

In addition to improving walkability, aesthetics, air quality and business opportunities, these GI projects are expected to improve water quality in Monhagen Brook – a tributary of the Walkill River whose watershed encompasses most of the City.

Conceptual designs for these Downtown GI projects are currently under development. Middletown residents and other concerned parties are invited to provide input to Project partners on these proposals. Funding will be sought through NYS's Consolidated Funding Application (CFA) – where proposals are due July 29, 2016. Suggestions or questions should be submitted as far in advance of this date as possible.

For a copy of the current project proposal or for general information, contact Orange County Soil and Water Conservation District by emailing Noah.Meyer@ocsoilny.org, calling 845-343-1873 (ask for Noah or Kevin), or by leaving a comment on our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/OrangeCountySWCD). You can also follow updates on this exciting initiative on OCSWCD's Facebook page.

'Traditional' storm water management – Runoff from impervious surfaces bypasses 'green' areas and is conveyed directly by storm drains to the nearest waterbody.



Green Infrastructure – green areas are utilized to treat and infiltrate Impervious area runoff. Conventional storm drains are available for flows that overwhelm GI practices.



Green infrastructure is an approach to water management that protects, restores, or mimics the natural water cycle. **Green infrastructure** is effective, economical, and enhances community safety and quality of life.