

Model Green Streets Policy Statement

A Green Streets policy can be adopted by a municipality to encourage the transformation of impervious city street surfaces into landscaped green-spaces that capture stormwater and recharge it on site

Model Policy from Northampton Massachusetts

In City Council, October ____, 2014

Ordered, that the City adopt a Green Streets and Infrastructure Policy

WHEREAS, Stormwater runoff from streets, roads, parking lots, roofs and other impervious urban surfaces is a significant source of water pollution to our rivers, streams and water bodies, and also is a key contributor to inflow into sanitary sewers; and

WHEREAS, Green Streets may provide cost-effective infrastructure solutions to reduce and manage stormwater runoff and flooding, including from more intense storm and flooding events and reduce localized flooding from surcharging, adapt to climate change, and manage stormwater runoff; and

WHEREAS, Green Streets improve water quality by filtering stormwater, removing contaminants and cooling the stormwater before it encounters groundwater or surface water bodies, such as rivers, all of which ultimately benefit watershed health. Facilities that filter stormwater through vegetation and soil can reduce total suspended solids (TSS), organic pollutants /oils, and heavy metals by at least 90%; and

WHEREAS, Green Streets foster unique and attractive streetscapes that protect and enhance neighborhood livability, integrate the built and natural environments, enhance the pedestrian environment, and introduce park-like elements into neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, Green Streets can serve as urban greenways or pathways and provide a preferred means of connecting neighborhoods and parks/recreation areas in ways that are attractive to pedestrians and bikers and complement complete streets; and

