



Stormwater Management

FAST FACTS:



Cistern (City Hall)

Right of Way Bioswale (1st Street)

- **Hoboken has a combined sewer system:** stormwater and sewage flow into the same pipes.
- **During rainfall events, Hoboken's sewer system is overtaxed** resulting in system backups that produce localized flooding in the lowest-lying areas, backups into basements, and overflows of combined sewage into the Hudson River.
- **Hoboken's flooding problems can be attributed to many sources:** topography, surface runoff, impervious surfaces (pavement/buildings), high tides that close outfalls, antiquated sewer infrastructure, interconnections between sewersheds, and insufficient pumping capacity.
- **Reducing the volume of water flowing into Hoboken's sewer system during rainfall events is key to stormwater management.** Water conservation and stormwater management can reduce this volume.
- **Green infrastructure can mitigate stormwater flooding.** Green infrastructure refers to stormwater management measures that mimic natural systems to capture rain where it falls, storing rainwater, delaying it from entering sewers, and releasing it after rain events.
- **Green infrastructure can also benefit public health** by improving air and water quality, lowering air temperatures which can lower air conditioning costs, reducing noise pollution, and adding green space to beautify the City.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:



You can help! We can work together to lessen the strain on the City's sewer system, reducing potential flooding, sewer backups, and combined sewer overflows into the Hudson River.

If you RENT an apartment or commercial space:

1. **Conserve Water.** Reduce water entering sewers during rainstorms. See 'Water Conservation' Fact Sheet.
2. **Collect Rainwater.** Use rain barrels or cisterns to harvest rainwater from rooftops for non-potable uses, such as watering plants, washing pets, or cleaning windows.
3. **Plant or Adopt a Street Tree.** The City aims to have 4,000 healthy, well maintained trees on streets by 2020, www.hobokennj.gov/boards/stc.

If you OWN a residential or commercial building:

1. **Install WaterSense products.** WaterSense products include toilets, bathroom faucets and accessories, showerheads, flushing urinals, weather-based irrigation controllers, and pre-rinse spray valves.
2. **Install Permeable Pavement.** Permeable pavers, concrete or asphalt provide a solid ground surface for sidewalks, driveways, and parking lots, allowing stormwater to filter through and infiltrate the soil.
3. **Install Stormwater Street Trees, Planters or Rain Gardens.** These site-specific green infrastructure measures add up to a big city-wide stormwater benefit.
4. **Install a Green Roof.** Hoboken's zoning code encourages green roofs wherever possible and incentivizes green roofs by allowing for additional roof deck area (Hoboken Code §196-28.2).
5. **Use Native Landscaping.** Native plants, shrubs, and flowers for landscaping better absorb stormwater, require less water and pesticides, and are easier to maintain.



Green Roof (14th Street)

Rain Garden (City Hall)

LEARN MORE:

Hoboken Green Infrastructure Strategic Plan <http://togethernorthjersey.com/?grid-portfolio=hoboken-green-infrastructure-strategic-plan>

Rutgers Water Resources Program <http://www.water.rutgers.edu/>

US EPA Green Infrastructure Information <http://water.epa.gov/infrastructure/greeninfrastructure/index.cfm>

NJDEP Green Infrastructure Information <http://www.nj.gov/dep/gi/>