



Draft

Impervious Cover Assessment for Mountainside Borough, Union County, New Jersey

Prepared for Mountainside Borough by the Rutgers Cooperative Extension Water Resources Program

February 5, 2015

Introduction

Pervious and impervious are terms that are used to describe the ability or inability of water to flow through a surface. When rainfall hits a surface, it can soak into the surface or flow off the surface. Pervious surfaces are those which allow stormwater to readily soak into the soil and recharge groundwater. When rainfall drains from a surface, it is called "stormwater" runoff (Figure 1). An impervious surface can be any material that has been placed over soil that prevents water from soaking into the ground. Impervious surfaces include paved roadways, parking lots, sidewalks, and rooftops. As impervious areas increase, so does the volume of stormwater runoff.



Figure 1: Stormwater draining from a parking lot

New Jersey has many problems due to stormwater runoff, including:

- <u>Pollution</u>: According to the 2010 New Jersey Water Quality Assessment Report, 90% of the assessed waters in New Jersey are impaired, with urban-related stormwater runoff listed as the most probable source of impairment (USEPA, 2013). As stormwater flows over the ground, it picks up pollutants including animal waste, excess fertilizers, pesticides, and other toxic substances. These pollutants are then able to enter waterways.
- <u>Flooding</u>: Over the past decade, the state has seen an increase in flooding. Communities around the state have been affected by these floods. The amount of damage caused also has increased greatly with this trend, costing billions of dollars over this time span.

 <u>Erosion</u>: Increased stormwater runoff causes an increase in the velocity of flows in our waterways. The increased velocity after storm events erodes stream banks and shorelines, degrading water quality. This erosion can damage local roads and bridges and cause harm to wildlife.

The primary cause of the pollution, flooding, and erosion problems is the quantity of impervious surfaces draining directly to local waterways. New Jersey is one of the most developed states in the country. Currently, the state has the highest percent of impervious cover in the country at 12.1% of its total area (Nowak & Greenfield, 2012). Many of these impervious surfaces are directly connected to local waterways (i.e., every drop of rain that lands on these impervious surfaces ends up in a local river, lake, or bay without any chance of being treated or soaking into the ground). To repair our waterways, reduce flooding, and stop erosion, stormwater runoff from impervious surfaces has to be better managed. Surfaces need to be disconnected with green infrastructure to prevent stormwater runoff from flowing directly into New Jersey's waterways. Disconnection redirects runoff from paving and rooftops to pervious areas in the landscape.

Green infrastructure is an approach to stormwater management that is cost-effective, sustainable, and environmentally friendly. Green infrastructure projects capture, filter, absorb, and reuse stormwater to maintain or mimic natural systems and to treat runoff as a resource. As a general principal, green infrastructure practices use soil and vegetation to recycle stormwater runoff through infiltration and evapotranspiration. When used as components of a stormwater management system, green infrastructure practices such as bioretention, green roofs, porous pavement, rain gardens, and vegetated swales can produce a variety of environmental benefits. In addition to effectively retaining and infiltrating rainfall, these technologies can simultaneously help filter air pollutants, reduce energy demands, mitigate urban heat islands, and sequester carbon while also providing communities with aesthetic and natural resource benefits (USEPA, 2013).

The first step to reducing the impacts from impervious surfaces is to conduct an impervious cover assessment. This assessment can be completed on different scales: individual lot, municipality, or watershed. Impervious surfaces need to be identified for stormwater management. Once impervious surfaces have been identified, there are three steps to better manage these surfaces.

- 1. *Eliminate surfaces that are not necessary.* For example, a paved courtyard at a public school could be converted to a grassed area.
- 2. Reduce or convert impervious surfaces. There may be surfaces that are required to be hardened, such as roadways or parking lots, but could be made smaller and still be functional. A parking lot that has two-way car ways could be converted to one-way car ways. There also are permeable paving materials such as porous asphalt, pervious concrete, or permeable paving stones that could be substituted for impermeable paving materials (Figure 2).
- 3. *Disconnect impervious surfaces from flowing directly to local waterways.* There are many ways to capture, treat, and infiltrate stormwater runoff from impervious surfaces. Opportunities may exist to reuse this captured water.



Figure 2: Rapid infiltration of water through porous pavement is demonstrated at the USEPA Edison New Jersey test site

Mountainside Borough Impervious Cover Analysis

Located in Union County in central New Jersey, Mountainside Borough covers approximately 4.0 square miles. Figures 3 and 4 illustrate that Mountainside Borough is dominated by urban land uses. A total of 60.5% of the municipality's land use is classified as urban. Of the urban land in Mountainside Borough, medium density residential is the dominant land use (Figure 5).

The literature suggests a link between impervious cover and stream ecosystem impairment starting at approximately 10% impervious surface cover (Schueler, 1994; Arnold and Gibbons, 1996; May et al., 1997). Impervious cover may be linked to the quality of lakes, reservoirs, estuaries, and aquifers (Caraco et al., 1998), and the amount of impervious cover in a watershed can be used to project the current and future quality of streams. Based on the scientific literature, Caraco et al. (1998) classified urbanizing streams into the following three categories: sensitive streams, impacted streams, and non-supporting streams. Sensitive steams typically have a watershed impervious surface cover from 0 - 10%. Impacted streams have a watershed impervious cover ranging from 11-25% and typically show clear signs of degradation from urbanization. Non-supporting streams have a watershed impervious cover of greater than 25%; at this high level of impervious cover, streams are simply conduits for stormwater flow and no longer support a diverse stream community.

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's (NJDEP) 2007 land use/land cover geographical information system (GIS) data layer categorizes Mountainside Borough into many unique land use areas, assigning a percent impervious cover for each delineated area. These impervious cover values were used to estimate the impervious coverage for Mountainside Borough. Based upon the 2007 NJDEP land use/land cover data, approximately 21.7% of Mountainside Borough has impervious cover. This level of impervious cover suggests that the streams in Mountainside Borough are likely impacted.

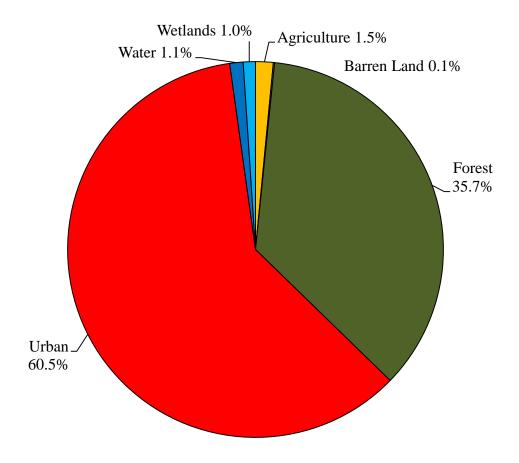


Figure 3: Pie chart illustrating the land use in Mountainside Borough

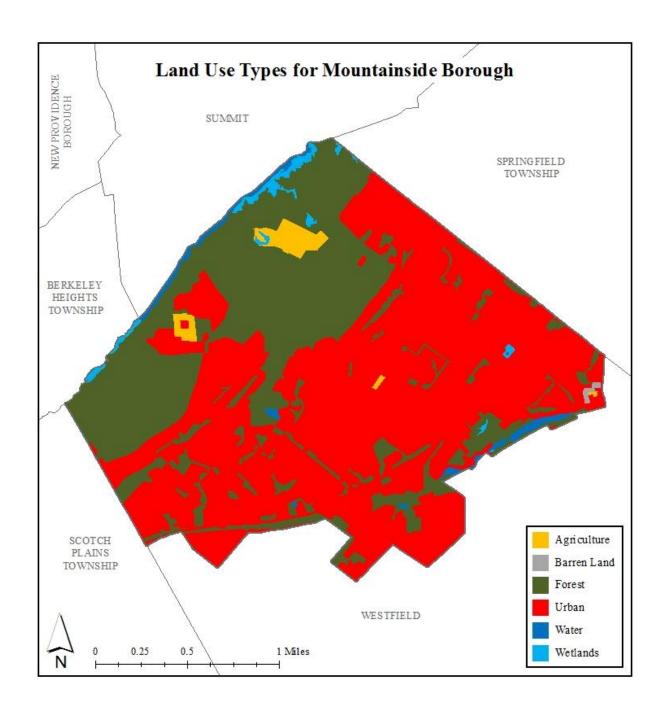


Figure 4: Map illustrating the land use in Mountainside Borough

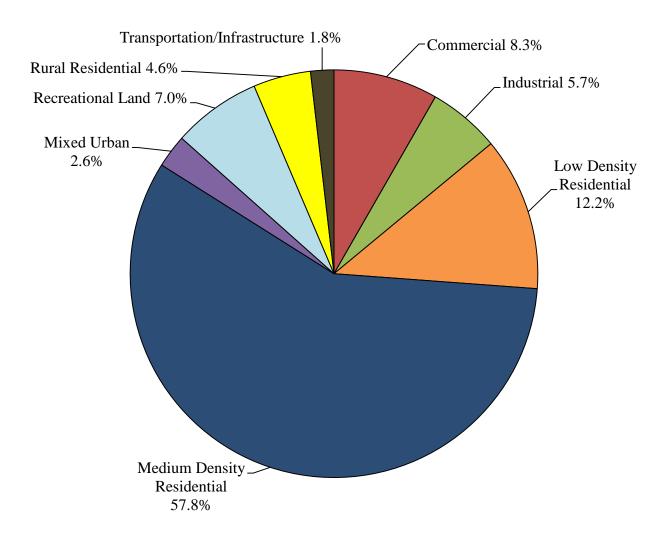


Figure 5: Pie chart illustrating the various types of urban land use in Mountainside Borough

Water resources are typically managed on a watershed/subwatershed basis; therefore an impervious cover analysis was performed for each Raritan River subwatershed within Mountainside Borough (Table 1 and Figure 6). On a subwatershed basis, impervious cover ranges from 6.0% in the Green Brook subwatershed to 29.5% in the Nomahegan Brook subwatershed. Evaluating impervious cover on a subwatershed basis allows the municipality to focus impervious cover reduction or disconnection efforts in the subwatersheds where frequent flooding occurs.

In developed landscapes, stormwater runoff from parking lots, driveways, sidewalks, and rooftops flows to drainage pipes that feed the sewer system. The cumulative effect of these impervious surfaces and thousands of connected downspouts reduces the amount of water that can infiltrate into soils and greatly increases the volume and rate of runoff that flows to waterways. Stormwater runoff volumes (specific to Mountainside Borough, Union County) associated with impervious surfaces were calculated for the following storms: the New Jersey water quality design storm of 1.25 inches of rain, an annual rainfall of 44 inches, the 2-year design storm (3.4 inches of rain), the 10-year design storm (5.2 inches of rain), and the 100-year design storm (8.7 inches of rain). These runoff volumes are summarized in Table 2. A substantial amount of rainwater drains from impervious surfaces in Mountainside Borough. For example, if the stormwater runoff from one water quality storm (1.25 inches of rain) in the Nomahegan Brook subwatershed was harvested and purified, it could supply water to 156 homes for one year¹.

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¹ Assuming 300 gallons per day per home

Table 1: Impervious cover analysis by subwatershed for Mountainside Borough

Cubunatanahad	Total Area		Land Use Area		Water Area		Impervious Cover		
Subwatershed	(ac)	(mi ²)	(ac)	(mi ²)	(ac)	(mi ²)	(ac)	(mi ²)	(%)
Green Brook	859.1	1.34	844.9	1.32	14.1	0.02	50.9	0.08	6.0%
Nomahegan Brook	1,726.2	2.70	1,710.6	2.67	15.6	0.02	504.3	0.79	29.5%
Total	2,585.2	4.04	2,555.5	3.99	29.7	0.05	555.2	0.87	21.7%

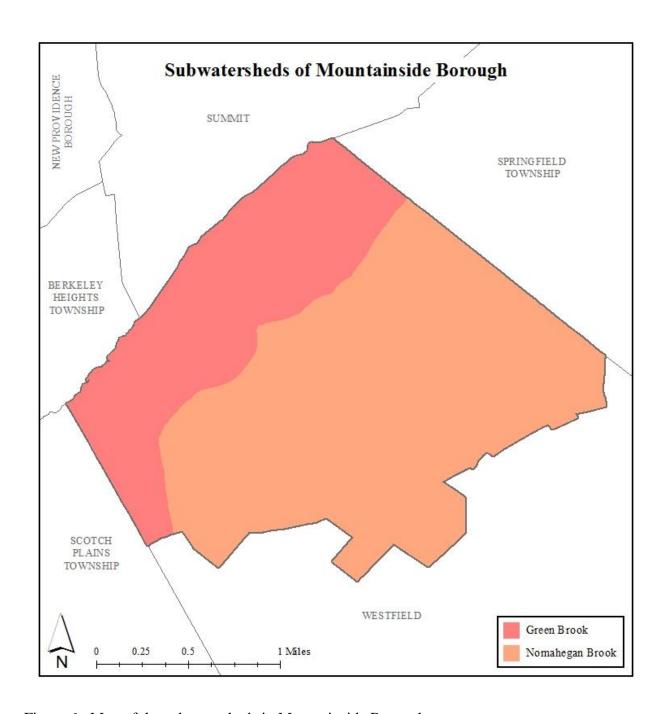


Figure 6: Map of the subwatersheds in Mountainside Borough

Table 2: Stormwater runoff volumes from impervious surfaces by subwatershed in Mountainside Borough

Subwatershed	Total Runoff Volume for the 1.25" NJ Water Quality Storm (MGal)	Total Runoff Volume for the NJ Annual Rainfall of 44" (MGal)	Total Runoff Volume for the 2-Year Design Storm (3.4") (MGal)	Total Runoff Volume for the 10-Year Design Storm (5.2") (MGal)	Total Runoff Volume for the 100-Year Design Storm (8.7") (MGal)
Green Brook	1.7	60.8	4.7	7.2	12.0
Nomahegan Brook	17.1	602.5	46.6	71.2	119.1
Total	18.8	663.3	51.3	78.4	131.2

The next step is to set a reduction goal for impervious area in each subwatershed. Based upon the Rutgers Cooperative Extension (RCE) Water Resources Program's experience, a 10% reduction would be a reasonably achievable reduction for these subwatersheds in Mountainside Borough. While it may be difficult to eliminate paved areas or replace paved areas with permeable pavement, it is relatively easy to identify impervious surfaces that can be disconnected using green infrastructure practices. For all practical purposes, disconnecting an impervious surface from a storm sewer system or a water body is an "impervious area reduction." The RCE Water Resources Program recommends that all green infrastructure practices that are installed to disconnect impervious surfaces should be designed for the 2-year design storm (3.4 inches of rain over 24-hours). Although this results in management practices that are slightly over-designed by NJDEP standards, which require systems to be designed for the New Jersey water quality storm (1.25 inches of rain over 2-hours), these systems will be able to handle the increase in storm intensities that are expected to occur due to climate change. By designing these management practices for the 2-year design storm, these practices will be able to manage 95% of the annual rainfall volume. The recommended annual reductions in runoff volumes are shown in Table 3.

As previously mentioned, once impervious surfaces have been identified, the next steps for managing impervious surfaces are to 1) eliminate surfaces that are not necessary, 2) reduce or convert impervious surfaces to pervious surfaces, and 3) disconnect impervious surfaces from flowing directly to local waterways.

Elimination of Impervious Surfaces

One method to reduce impervious cover is to "depave." Depaving is the act of removing paved impervious surfaces and replacing them with pervious soil and vegetation that will allow for the infiltration of rainwater. Depaving leads to the re-creation of natural space that will help reduce flooding, increase wildlife habitat, and positively enhance water quality as well as beautify neighborhoods. Depaving also can bring communities together around a shared vision to work together to reconnect their neighborhood to the natural environment.

Table 3: Impervious cover reductions by subwatershed in Mountainside Borough

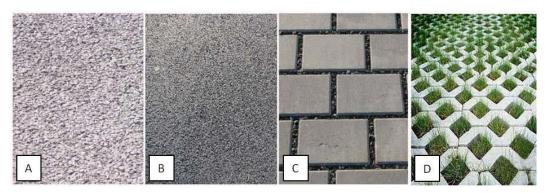
Subwatershed	Recommended Impervious Area Reduction (10%) (ac)	Annual Runoff Volume Reduction ² (MGal)
Green Brook	5.1	5.8
Nomahegan Brook	50.4	57.2
Total	55.5	63.0

² Annual Runoff Volume Reduction =
Acres of impervious cover x 43,560 ft²/ac x 44 in x (1 ft/12 in) x 0.95 x (7.48 gal/ft³) x (1 MGal/1,000,000 gal)
All green infrastructure should be designed to capture the first 3.4 inches of rain from each storm. This would allow the green infrastructure to capture 95% of the annual rainfall of 44 inches.

Pervious Pavement

There are four different types of permeable pavement systems that are commonly being used throughout the country to reduce the environmental impacts from impervious surfaces. These surfaces include pervious concrete, porous asphalt, interlocking concrete pavers, and grid pavers.

"Permeable pavement is a stormwater drainage system that allows rainwater and runoff to move through the pavement's surface to a storage layer below, with the water eventually seeping into the underlying soil. Permeable pavement is beneficial to the environment because it can reduce stormwater volume, treat stormwater water quality, replenish the groundwater supply, and lower air temperatures on hot days (Rowe, 2012)."



Permeable surfaces: (A) pervious concrete, (B) porous asphalt, (C) interlocking concrete pavers, (D) grid pavers (Rowe, 2012)

Pervious concrete and porous asphalt are the most common of the permeable surfaces. They are similar to regular concrete and asphalt but without the fine materials. This allows water to quickly pass through the material into an underlying layered system of stone that holds the water allowing it to infiltrate into the underlying uncompacted soil.

Impervious Cover Disconnection Practices

By redirecting runoff from paving and rooftops to pervious areas in the landscape, the amount of directly connected impervious area in a drainage area can be greatly reduced. There are many cost-effective ways to disconnect impervious surfaces from local waterways.

• <u>Simple Disconnection</u>: This is the easiest and least costly method to reduce stormwater runoff for smaller storm events. Instead of piping rooftop runoff to the street where it enters the catch basin and is piped to the river, the rooftop runoff is released onto a grassed

area to allow the water to be filtered by the grass and soak into the ground. A healthy lawn typically can absorb the first one to two inches of stormwater runoff from a rooftop. Simple disconnection also can be used to manage stormwater runoff from paved areas. Designing a parking lot or driveway to drain onto a grassed area, instead of the street, can dramatically reduce pollution and runoff volumes.

• Rain Gardens: Stormwater can be diverted into shallow landscaped depressed areas (i.e., rain gardens) where the vegetation filters the water, and it is allowed to soak into the ground. Rain gardens, also known as bioretention systems, come in all shapes and sizes and can be designed to disconnect a variety of impervious surfaces (Figure 7).



Figure 7: Rain garden outside the RCE of Gloucester County office which was designed to disconnect rooftop runoff from the local storm sewer system

• Rainwater Harvesting: Rainwater harvesting includes the use of rain barrels and cisterns (Figures 8a and 8b). These can be placed below downspouts to collect rooftop runoff. The collected water has a variety of uses including watering plants and washing cars. This practice also helps cut down on the use of potable water for nondrinking purposes. It is important to divert the overflow from the rainwater harvesting system to a pervious area.



Figure 8a: Rain barrel used to disconnect a downspout with the overflow going to a flower bed



Figure 8b: A 5,000 gallon cistern used to disconnect the rooftop of the Department of Public Works in Clark Township to harvest rainwater for nonprofit car wash events

Examples of Opportunities in Mountainside Borough

To address the impact of stormwater runoff from impervious surfaces, the next step is to identify opportunities in the municipality for eliminating, reducing, or disconnecting directly connected impervious surfaces. To accomplish this task, an impervious cover reduction action plan should be prepared. Aerial photographs are used to identify sites with impervious surfaces in the municipality that may be suitable for inclusion in the action plan. After sites are identified, site visits are conducted to photo-document all opportunities and evaluate the feasibility of eliminating, reducing or disconnecting directly connected impervious surfaces. A brief description of each site discussing the existing conditions and recommendations for treatment of the impervious surfaces is developed. After a number of sites have been selected for inclusion in the action plan, concept plans and detailed green infrastructure information sheets are prepared for a selection of representative sites.

For Mountainside Borough, three sites have been included in this assessment. Examples of concept plans and detailed green infrastructure information sheets are provided in Appendix A. The detailed green infrastructure information sheets describe existing conditions and issues, proposed solutions, anticipated benefits, possible funding sources, potential partners and stakeholders, and estimated costs. Additionally, each project has been classified as a mitigation opportunity for recharge potential, total suspended solids removal, and stormwater peak reduction. Finally, these detailed green infrastructure information sheets provide an estimate of gallons of stormwater captured and treated per year by each proposed green infrastructure practice. The concept plans provide an aerial photograph of the site and details of the proposed green infrastructure practices.

Conclusions

Mountainside Borough can reduce flooding and improve its waterways by better managing stormwater runoff from impervious surfaces. This impervious cover assessment is the first step toward better managing stormwater runoff. The next step is to develop an action plan to eliminate, reduce, or disconnect impervious surfaces where possible and practical. Many of the highly effective disconnection practices are inexpensive. The entire community can be engaged in implementing these disconnection practices.

References

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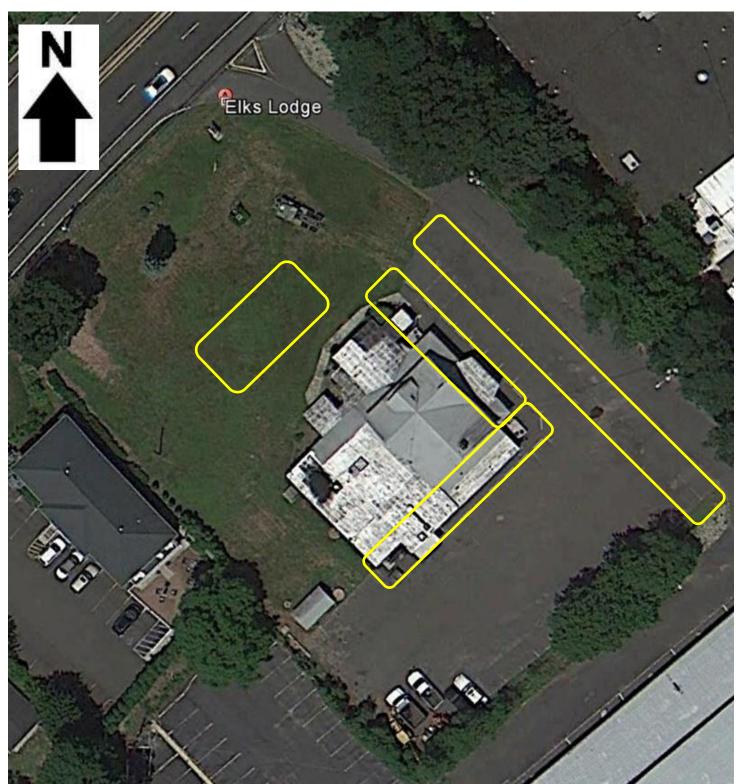
Appendix A

Examples of Impervious Cover Reduction Action Plan Projects Concept Plans and Detailed Green Infrastructure Information Sheets

Mountainside Borough

Impervious Cover Assessment Elk Lodge, 1193 U.S. 22

















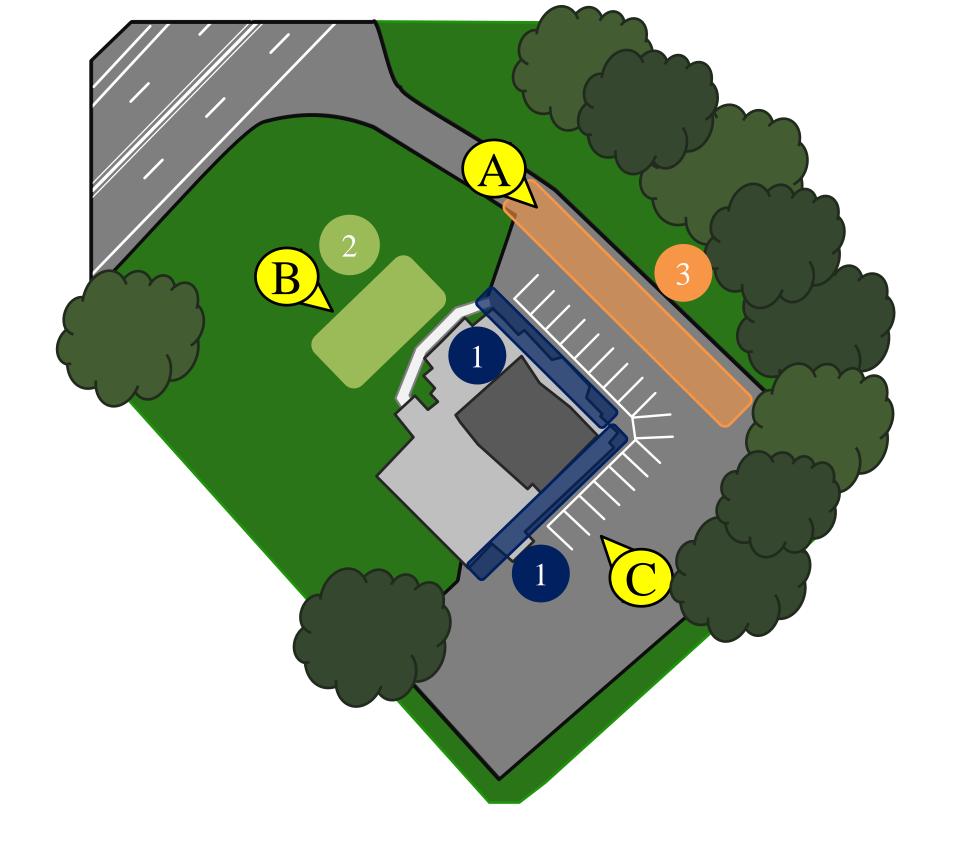




DOWSPOUT PLANTER BOX: Downspout planter boxes could be installed along the northeast and

southeast sides of the building to collect water from the nearby downspouts. Downspout planter boxes reduce

- BIORETENTION SYSTEM: On this property a rain garden can be installed in the northwest lawn to reduce sediment and nutrient loading to the local waterway and increase groundwater recharge.
- POROUS PAVEMENT: Porous pavement promotes groundwater recharge and filters stormwater. The eroded areas of the parking lot could be retrofitted with porous pavement.



DOWNSPOUT PLANTER BOX

runoff and allow water to slowly infiltrate while being treated for pollutants.

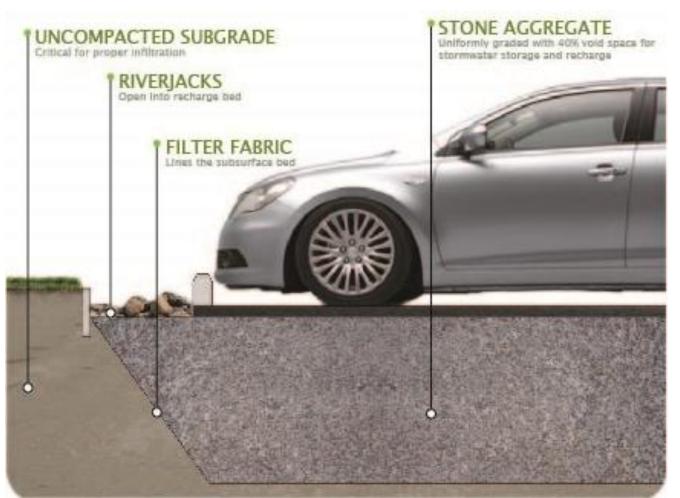




BIORETENTION SYSTEM



POROUS PAVEMENT



Elks Lodge Green Infrastructure Information Sheet

Location: 1193 U.S. 22 Mountainside, NJ 07092	Municipality: Mountainside Borough
	Subwatershed: Nomahegan Brook
Green Infrastructure Description: bioretention systems (rain garden) porous pavement downspout planter boxes	Targeted Pollutants: total nitrogen (TN), total phosphorous (TP), and total suspended solids (TSS) in surface runoff
Mitigation Opportunities: recharge potential: yes stormwater peak reduction potential: yes TSS removal potential: yes	Stormwater Captured and Treated Per Year: porous pavement: 140,700 gal. rain garden: 21,890 gal. 5 downspout planter boxes side: 7,000 gal. 3 downspout planter boxes rear: 4,200 gal.

Existing Conditions and Issues:

This site contains the driveway of the Elks Lodge that is eroded and is in bad condition. There are also downspouts in the rear and on the side of the building that currently flow onto the parking lot causing more erosion. There are connected downspouts in the front of the building that currently flow onto the sidewalk.

Proposed Solution(s):

The driveway can be made into porous pavement to prevent erosion and promote groundwater recharge. The downspouts that line the back and side of the building can be redirected into downspout planter boxes. The front of the building could have a bioretention system installed to collect runoff from the connected downspouts.

Anticipated Benefits:

Since the bioretention systems would be designed to capture, treat, and infiltrate the entire 2-year design storm (3.4 inches of rain over 24 hours), these systems are estimated to achieve a 95% pollutant load reduction for TN, TP, and TSS. The porous pavement system will achieve the same level of pollutant load reduction for TN, TP and TSS. The downspout planter boxes would work the same way as the bioretention systems by capturing and infiltrating stormwater runoff. Downspout planter boxes and a bioretention system would also provide ancillary benefits such as enhanced wildlife habitat and aesthetic appeal.

Possible Funding Sources:

mitigation funds from local developers NJDEP grant programs

Partners/Stakeholders:

Mountainside residents

local community groups (Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, etc.)

Elk members

Elks Lodge Green Infrastructure Information Sheet

American Littoral Society Rutgers Cooperative Extension

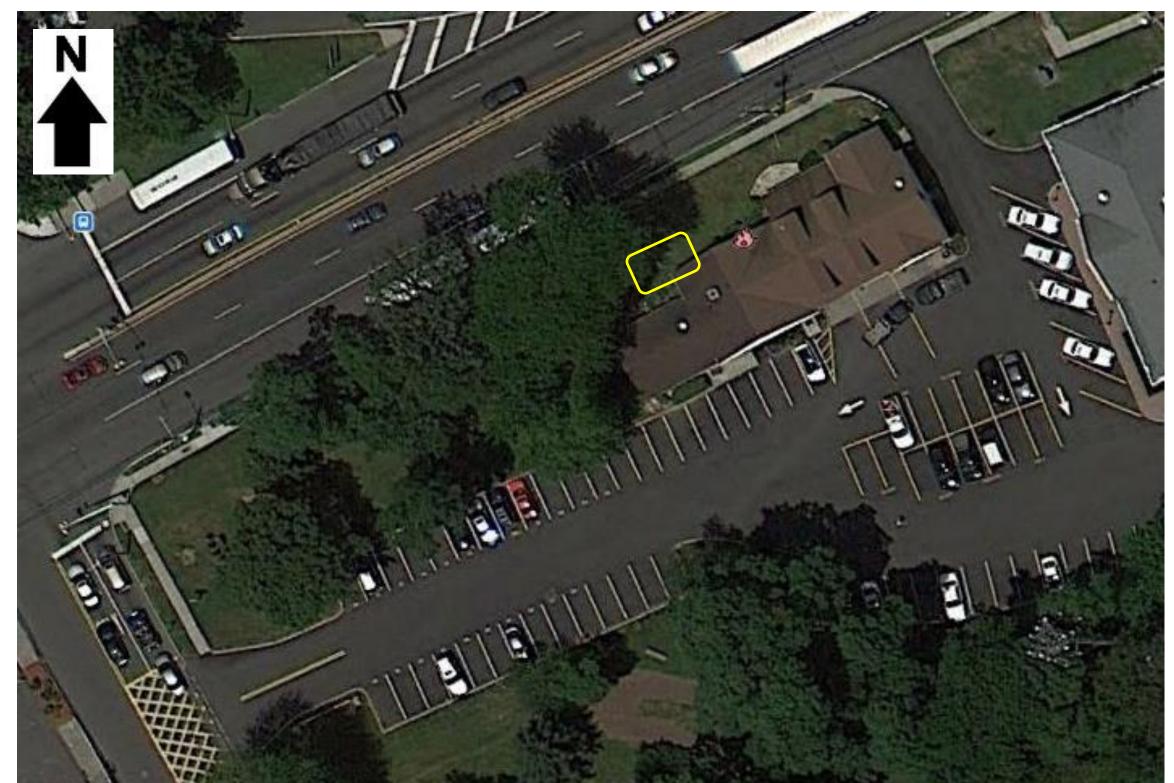
Estimated Cost:

The porous pavement would need to be approximately 1,650 square feet and have a one foot base. At \$20 per square foot, the approximate cost is \$33,000. The bioretention system would need to be approximately 210 square feet. At \$5 per square foot, the estimated cost is \$1,050. Five downspout planter boxes could be installed on the side of the building, and three could be installed off of the rear of the building. At \$300 each, 8 downspout planter boxes would cost \$2,400. The total cost of the project would be \$36,450.

Mountainside Borough Impervious Cover Assessment

Mountainside Rescue Squad, 1399 U.S. 22

PROJECT LOCATION:







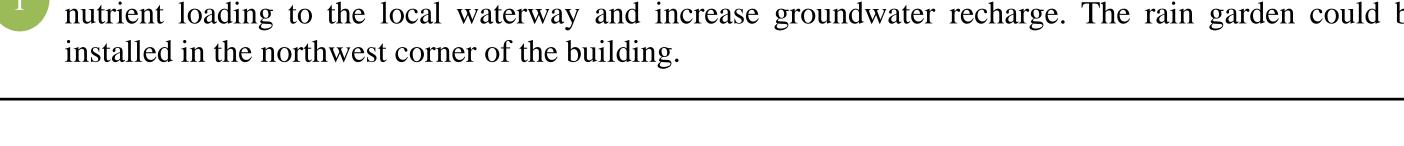


RUTGERS

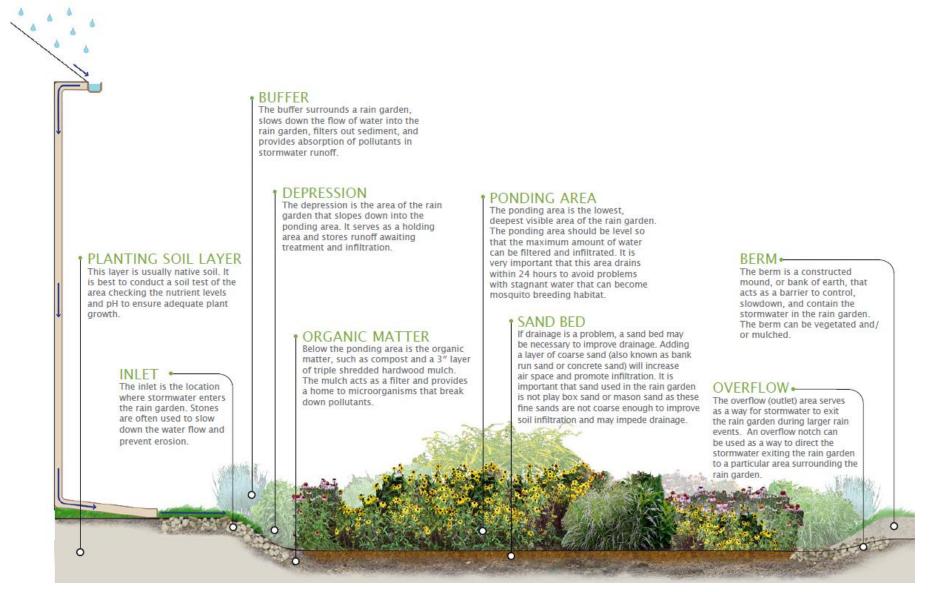




BIORETENTION SYSTEM: On this property a rain garden can be used to reduce sediment and nutrient loading to the local waterway and increase groundwater recharge. The rain garden could be









Mountainside Rescue Squad Green Infrastructure Information Sheet

Location: 1399 U.S. 22 Mountainside, NJ 07092	Municipality: Mountainside Borough Subwatershed: Nomahegan Brook
Green Infrastructure Description: bioretention system (rain garden)	Targeted Pollutants: total nitrogen (TN), total phosphorous (TP), and total suspended solids (TSS) in surface runoff
Mitigation Opportunities: recharge potential: yes TSS removal potential: yes stormwater peak reduction potential: yes	Stormwater Captured and Treated Per Year: rain garden: 39,600 gal.

Existing Conditions and Issues:

This site contains disconnected downspouts that flow onto an area of grass in front of the rescue squad. This can cause erosion when high volumes of water flow over the grass.

Proposed Solution(s):

In this area of grass in front of the rescue squad, a bioretention system can be constructed. The disconnected downspouts would be available to flow into the bioretention system.

Anticipated Benefits:

Since the bioretention systems would be designed to capture, treat, and infiltrate the entire 2-year design storm (3.4 inches of rain over 24 hours), these systems are estimated to achieve a 95% pollutant load reduction for TN, TP, and TSS. This bioretention system would provide additional benefits such as aesthetic appeal and enhanced wildlife habitat.

Possible Funding Sources:

mitigation funds from local developers NJDEP grant programs grants from foundations

Partners/Stakeholders:

Borough of Mountainside

local community groups (Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, etc.)

NY/NJ Baykeeper

Raritan Riverkeeper

Rutgers Cooperative Extension

Estimated Cost:

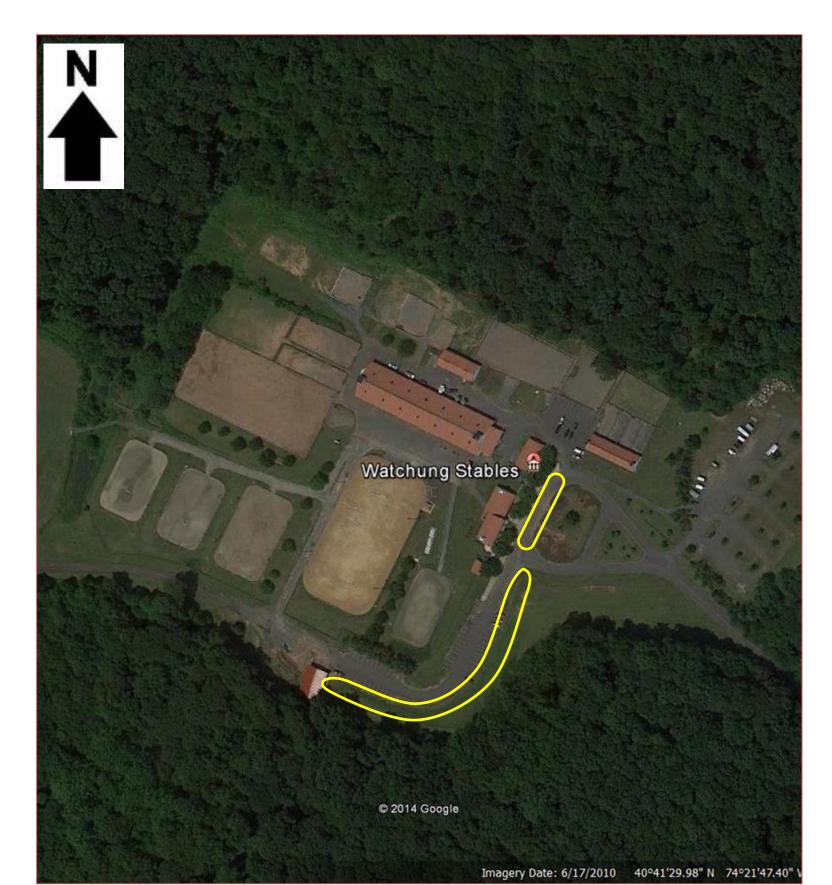
The rain garden would need to be approximately 380 square feet. At \$5 a square foot, the estimated cost is \$1,900.

Mountainside Borough

Impervious Cover Assessment

Watchung Stables, 1160 Summit Lane

PROJECT LOCATION:





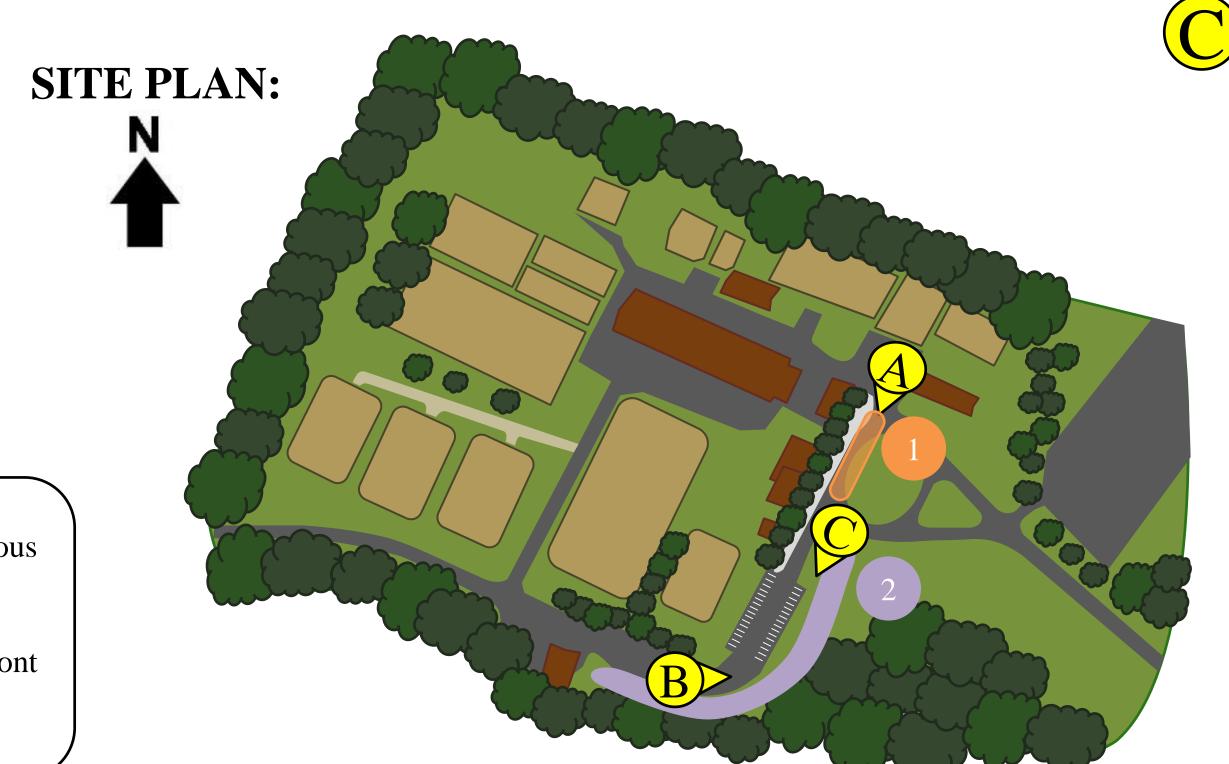




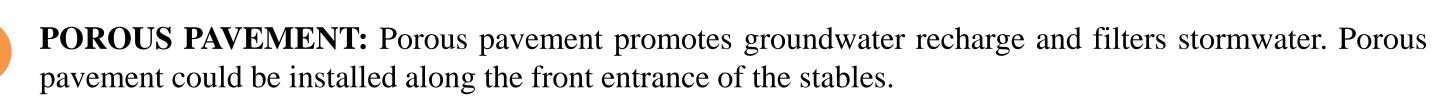




RUTGERS







BIOSWALE: A bioswale is a vegetated system that will convey stormwater from the parking lot and front lawn, while removing sediment and nutrients.

POROUS PAVEMENT



2

BIOSWALE



Watchung Stables Green Infrastructure Information Sheet

Location: 1160 Summit Lane Mountainside, NJ 07092	Municipality: Mountainside Borough Subwatershed: Nomahegan Brook
Green Infrastructure Description: bioswale porous pavement	Targeted Pollutants: total nitrogen (TN), total phosphorous (TP), and total suspended solids (TSS) in surface runoff
Mitigation Opportunities: recharge potential: yes stormwater peak reduction potential: yes TSS removal potential: yes	Stormwater Captured and Treated Per Year: bioswale: 299,640 gal. porous pavement: 668,970 gal.

Existing Conditions and Issues:

This site contains the driveway near the entrance of Watching Stables that is eroded and in bad condition. It also contains the edge of the parking spots that dip down into the grass area, along the left of the main entrance closest to the wooded area.

Proposed Solution(s):

The best option for this site is to install a bioswale to capture, treat, and infiltrate stormwater runoff from the hill near the wooded area. It would be installed along the edge of the parking lot. To deal with the eroded driveway, porous pavement can be implemented.

Anticipated Benefits:

The porous pavement would be designed to capture, treat, and infiltrate the entire 2-year design storm (3.4 inches of rain over 24 hours), these systems are estimated to achieve a 95% pollutant load reduction for TN, TP, and TSS. The bioswale would reduce TN by 30%, TP by 60%, and TSS by 90%. The bioswale would also provide ancillary benefits such as enhanced wildlife habitat and aesthetic appeal.

Possible Funding Sources:

mitigation funds from local developers NJDEP grant programs

Partners/Stakeholders:

Mountainside residents

local community groups (Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, etc.)

American Littoral Society

Rutgers Cooperative Extension

Watchung Stables Green Infrastructure Information Sheet

Estimated Cost:

The bioswale would need to be approximately 2,700 square feet. At \$5 per square foot, the bioswale would cost approximately \$13,500. The porous pavement would need to be approximately 3,100 square feet with a three foot base. At \$30 per square foot, the porous pavement system would cost approximately \$93,000. The total cost of the project would be approximately \$106,500.