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## **New Jersey Green Infrastructure Municipal Toolkit Master Plan: Goals and Objectives Model Language**

*This document was created for New Jersey Future by Clarke Caton Hintz.*

Update your master plan to incorporate sustainable, [low impact development](#) policies and principles. These crucial updates provide the rationale and framework to strengthen the municipal stormwater ordinance and land use/zoning ordinance to encourage or require the implementation of green infrastructure.

The following goals may appear in your master plan as general goals, or may be listed separately under section(s) related to environmental protection, stormwater management, land use, water quality, street scape and/or flood control.

- Promote no adverse impact on the quality of surface waters before, during, and after land development processes. In redevelopment or rehabilitation projects, promote improvement over existing conditions related stormwater runoff volume, water quality and groundwater recharge.
- Improve stormwater management systems by using green infrastructure techniques such as natural, low-impact design elements and green infrastructure installations such as rain gardens, green roofs, permeable pavement, vegetated swales, tree trenches and constructed wetlands.
- Encourage an interconnected green infrastructure network in order to provide environmental, social, recreational, psychological, public health, and economic benefits.
- Promote the incorporation of green infrastructure planning and implementation strategies in new construction as well as redevelopment or rehabilitation of existing sites.
- Strengthen and direct development towards existing neighborhoods, communities and infrastructure.
- Give priority to infill and redevelopment for both private and public purposes.
- Encourage new development to incorporate green building practices (e.g., solar-oriented, energy and water-efficient design of buildings, low impact site design).

- Maintain tree canopy to increase the beneficial effects such as a reduced carbon footprint, reduced ambient temperature, stormwater management benefits and increased aesthetic appeal to a municipality, as well as improved quality of life.
- Encourage the use of native and other drought tolerant species for landscaping to conserve water, reduce pollution, and attract birds and pollinators. Prohibit the use of invasive species, which can rapidly colonize open areas, causing harm to ecosystems and eliminating the natural benefits of the native species.
- Protect riparian corridors with sufficient riparian buffers.
- Reduce excessive stormwater runoff by reducing impervious cover and increasing vegetation.
- Encourage practices that require reduced watering and reduced pesticide and herbicide use.
- Incorporate sustainable infrastructure into existing and future community facilities including roads, parks and other public property, and utilities in order to increase efficiency, realize cost savings, and lessen maintenance issues and costs.