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University of Pennsylvania  
Institute for Environmental Studies

presents



**Howard M. Neukrug**  
Office of Watersheds, City of Philadelphia

## Clean Water – Green City

Philadelphia's declaration that it will be the greenest city in the world is an energizing call to action for the Philadelphia Water Department (PWD). As the department charged with ensuring optimal compliance with the City's federal Clean Water Act (CWA) permit, PWD is striving to define an infrastructure management program that protects and enhances our region's waterways by managing stormwater runoff in a way that significantly reduces the need for pipes. Over the past year we have crafted a vision that focuses on the treatment of publicly-owned land – city properties, streets, right-of-ways – land surfaces that constitute 45 percent of the impervious land area of the City - that modifies the relationship between land and stormwater. This sustainable, environmentally beneficial treatment is known as green infrastructure.

The goal of our Green Infrastructure program is to reduce the impervious cover in our communities – the hard surfaces such as asphalt and concrete that make up the largest percentage of land – that results in the greatest amount of stormwater runoff. We look at our City's streets with an eye that seeks sometimes modest and sometimes grand opportunities to peel back some of the existing concrete and asphalt to recreate a green element that welcomes the rain – storing, draining and cleaning it. Ideally, when we complete a public land transformation, the new green infrastructure will manage the first one inch of rainfall that would normally flow along its street gutters and into its storm drains within the targeted drainage area.

PWD believes that money spent on stormwater management and the attainment of CWA goals should also represent money spent to improve the natural resources of the city and to enhance the community. To this end, PWD is working to incorporate its green approach into a larger citywide sustainability policy to address not only water resources issues, but to also address other environmental issues such as air quality, waste product reuse, urban heat island mitigation, carbon sequestration, and energy conservation. However, we cannot implement a Green Infrastructure program in a vacuum. Retrofitting a street or public facility is certainly more costly than building new infrastructure as a component of a complete renewal project. For PWD to solely focus on retrofit opportunities, our limited funding will be poorly invested. We believe the ideal is a true city-wide partnership, one that would result in an incredibly innovative, cost-effective and transforming approach to how city departments revitalize its neighborhoods to make them a healthier and more sustainable place in our little corner of the biosphere.

**Date: October 15, 2008**

**Time: NOON - 1:30 pm**

**Place: Carolyn Hoff Lynch Auditorium**

On the Penn campus: Chemistry Building  
34 & Spruce Sts. (enter on 34 St)

**NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED**

Direct questions to: 215-573-3164

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**NO FOOD OR DRINK PERMITTED IN THE AUDITORIUM**

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