GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE, CLIMATE, AND CITIES SEMINAR SERIES

MARCH 4, 2015

ASSESSING GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE WITH URBAN VEGETATION

Abstract

This session's presenters will discuss the effectiveness of the green infrastructure (GI) initiatives based on plants' performances. DiGiovanni will present her research on evapotranspiration rates in engineered urban green spaces. Ahern will discuss the Philadelphia Water Department's landscape design guidelines, maintenance procedures, and types of plants that are used in the implementation of PWD's 400+ stormwater management systems. Blaustein will give an overview of Greenland Nursery, focusing on interfaces between the nursery's programs and municipal projects in Philadelphia.

Speaker Bios

Kimberly DiGiovanni, Ph.D. is a Post-Doctoral Research Fellow and Adjunct Assistant Professor in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Villanova University. She is a graduate of Drexel University's doctoral program in Environmental Engineering and is an alumna of the Sustainable Water Resource Engineering Laboratory at Drexel. Dr. DiGiovanni's research interests and focus include eco-hydrology of natural and vegetated spaces and engineered urban green spaces.

Rachel Ahearn serves as landscape design expert for the Philadelphia Water Department (PWD)'s Green City, Clean Waters Program. Ms. Ahern reviews landscape designs and leads surface maintenance operations. She was the primary author of PWD's GSI Landscape Design Manual. Ms. Ahern has a B.A. in Biology from Lewis & Clark College in Portland, OR and a Masters in Landscape Architecture and Certificate in Urban Design from the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, PA.

Max Blaustein is Nursery Manager for the Philadelphia Department of Parks & Recreation. He has been working since 2009 to restore a previously abandoned Fairmount Park facility, and building a program of local provenance native plant production for projects within the city of Philadelphia. Primarily growing plant materials for natural lands restoration sites, the nursery is now also producing container plants for maintenance of green stormwater infrastructure sites.

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