

# Great Lakes Stormwater Technology Transfer: Accelerating the Adoption of Green Infrastructure

The **Great Lakes Stormwater Technology Transfer** project will bring together technology experts from across the Great Lakes basin to accelerate the adoption of innovative stormwater management technology and design techniques that can improve stormwater management.

Innovations in stormwater management are slow to proliferate. Green infrastructure design techniques, data driven water management systems, and proprietary structural systems are all vital in protecting our environment and neighborhoods from polluted stormwater and flooding, which can pose risks to human health and property. However, innovations have historically been limited to pilot projects in large cities and wealthier communities. Bringing innovative technologies to smaller and less affluent communities is essential to protecting the Great Lakes and responding to ever-increasing demands related to stormwater management.

With funding from the Erb Family Foundation, the Great Lakes Commission and Lawrence Technological University will bring together leaders in the stormwater management and technology field to foster the exchange of stormwater technology across the region. The project will ask experts from across public and private sectors to share their knowledge with each other and identify specific barriers to technology transfer and implementation. The formation of a Great Lakes Stormwater Technology Transfer Collaborative will be explored as a potential course of action for overcoming those barriers. A survey of stormwater professionals, practitioner focus groups, and a session at the 2017 Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Green Infrastructure Conference are part of the overall approach to launching a regional stormwater technology transfer collaborative.

A sister project, the Green Infrastructure Champions Pilot Program, will create a peer-to-peer mentoring network of “green infrastructure champions” and emerging communities across the Great Lakes. Also funded by the Erb Family Foundation, the two efforts will work in tandem to reduce physical and institutional barriers to a more holistic and effective approach to stormwater management.