

Colerain Township Considering Innovative Solutions Such as “Green Infrastructure” for their Hazard Mitigation Planning Effort

Colerain Township has been awarded a planning grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency. This grant has provided Colerain Township with the funds to help develop and upgrade the Colerain Township All Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan. As a part of this planning effort Colerain Township is conducting a Green Infrastructure Workshop to help better determine how and where green infrastructure could make a difference in their community. The workshop will take place on September 1st, 2009 at 7:00pm at the Colerain Township Hall at 4200 Springdale Road.

Green infrastructure represents a new approach to floodplain and stormwater management that is cost effective, sustainable and environmentally friendly. Green infrastructure techniques utilize natural or engineered systems that mimic natural landscapes to capture, cleanse, and reduce stormwater runoff using plants, soils and microbes. On the regional scale, green infrastructure consists of the interconnected network of open spaces and natural areas including forests, floodplains and wetlands; that improve water quality while providing recreational opportunities and wildlife habitat. On the local scale, green infrastructure consists of site specific management practices such as rain gardens, porous pavements, and green roofs that are designed to absorb and infiltrate precipitation where it falls.

Many communities have found Green Infrastructure to be a cost effective strategy for reducing combined sewer overflows and reducing flooding. Colerain Township is taking the next step by considering the incorporation of green infrastructure into their existing planning efforts. URS Corporation will be helping Colerain Township with the implementation of this Green Infrastructure Workshop and is helping numerous communities quantify and assess the benefits of Green Infrastructure and how it can be implemented in the most cost effective way within their community.

The agenda for the meeting will consist of:

- An introduction of what green infrastructure can do for Colerain Township’s existing infrastructure system;
- the evaluation of known green infrastructure applications for consideration in Colerain Township; and
- the evaluation of performance of existing green infrastructure within Colerain Township to gauge viability of codifying its usage in future development activities.