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To: sboynton@pwea.org

Subject: Symbiosis in the Stormwater Sector

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STORMWATER REPORT

Symbiosis in the Stormwater Sector

In nature, a mutually beneficial relationship between two species is often described as symbiotic. Humans, in general, boast very few such relationships with the wildlife around us, particularly in densely developed urban centers. However, advances in green infrastructure and nature-based solutions are steadily moving the needle toward healthier interactions between people and the planet. Thoughtfully designed green infrastructure can, for example, strip away toxic pollutants before they reach waterways, provide new habitats for vulnerable pollinators, and prevent flooding that might otherwise ravage imperiled ecosystems. This edition of [Stormwater Report](#) explores emerging ways stormwater professionals are supporting a symbiotic relationship with the wildlife around us.

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Six MS4 Permittees Recognized With 2023 WEF Awards

WEF has recognized six sector-leading stormwater organizations as winners of its 2023 National Municipal Stormwater and Green Infrastructure Awards program, also known as the MS4 Awards. This year's winners, celebrated for performing beyond regulatory requirements to control flooding risks, protect public health, and safeguard natural ecosystems, are the ninth class of MS4 Awardees since 2015. [Learn more about this year's winners](#).



Green Infrastructure Protects Salmon From Pollutants and Plastics

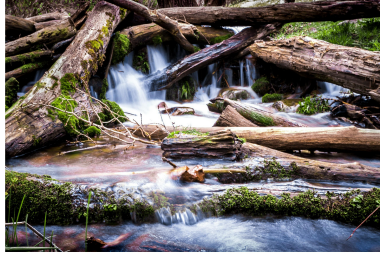
New evidence is demonstrating that simple green infrastructure interventions can dramatically reduce mortality risks for the coho salmon and its relatives, which are uniquely susceptible to pollutants from busy roadways that enter streams through runoff. [Authors of two recent studies describe that source control remains the best way to safeguard these vital fish species, but simple tactics like bioretention filters and constructed wetlands can make a major difference](#).

WEFTEC Attendees Build Rain Garden at Chicago School

The 2023 WEF Community Service Project, titled, "Today's Water Students, Tomorrow's Water Leaders," was completed at Chicago's O.A. Thorp Scholastic Academy on September 30. Project volunteers worked together to build a massive rain garden on the public-school campus, sized to treat up to 1.7 million L (448,000 gal) of stormwater per year and



accommodate a 100-year storm event. [Watch the project come together at weftec.org](#).

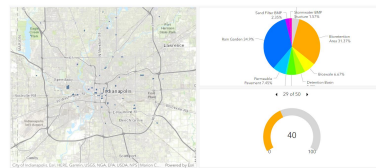


Researchers Mimic Beavers to Protect Downstream Communities

Results of a 2-year river monitoring campaign demonstrate that simple, dam-like river obstacles made from sticks and logs — known as leaky barriers — can provide significant flood-mitigation benefits for downstream communities during storm events. [The team's findings offer quantifiable evidence that strategically placed leaky barriers can represent a cost-effective flood-control strategy in the right settings](#).

WEF Seeks Resources for Green Infrastructure Story Map

A WEF-convened focus group of stormwater professionals is building a web-based green infrastructure story map. The group requires web links to the following types of official or academic resources: city, county, and state green infrastructure design guides; standard construction details or specifications; guidelines for estimating efficiencies or other benefits; landscape/planting guides; and O&M manuals specific to GSI. [Please send links to Lisa Deason, WEF Stormwater Program Manager, at ldeason@wef.org](#).



Collection Systems and Stormwater Conference 2024: Call For Content Closing Soon

The WEF Collection Systems and Stormwater Conference will take place as a combined event next year, April 9

–12, 2024, in Hartford, Connecticut. The Call for Content is now open and will close on October 17, 2023. [Learn more about Collection Systems and Stormwater Conference 2024.](#)



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