NYC DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

OFFICE OF GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

PROTECTION REQUIREMENTS

FOR

EXISTING RIGHT-OF-WAY GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE PRACTICES

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PROTECTION REQUIREMENTS FOR EXISTING ROW GI PRACTICES

1 General

The New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Office of Green Infrastructure (OGI), in partnership with other city agencies, is currently implementing the Mayoral PlanNYC Green Infrastructure (GI) Program. The scope of this program includes the construction of Right-of-way Green Infrastructure (“ROW GI”) practices throughout combined sewer areas citywide.

The function of ROW GI practices is to collect at least 1” of stormwater runoff from the street gutter, sidewalk, and roadway and infiltrate it into the surrounding permeable sub-soil.

During construction activities, ROW GI practices must be protected from damage or adverse impacts that degrade its ability to perform its intended design function. Debris and contaminants must be prevented from entering the ROW GI practice, where they could obstruct stormwater infiltration through the engineered soil and damage the vegetation or trees.

2 Description of ROW Green Infrastructure Practices

“Existing ROW GI practices” means any sustainable drainage infrastructure within the public right-of-way that is capturing and managing stormwater runoff prior to entering catch basins and discharging to City sewers. ROW GI practices include bioswales (ROWB), Rain Gardens (ROWRG), Greenstrips (ROWGS), and Greenstreets (ROWSGS).

Description of ROWBs, ROWRGs and ROWGSs:

ROWBs, ROWRGs, and ROWGSs are located entirely within the sidewalk and are rectangular in shape (Figure 1). These ROW GI practices are vegetated and may or may not have a tree at their centers. They are different from traditional tree pits and have inlet and outlet structures that direct stormwater runoff flow from the street gutters in and out of the ROW GI practice.
Description of ROWSGs:

ROWSGs (Figure 2) are located on the roadway immediately adjacent to the sidewalk. Their shape and size can vary significantly based on their location. These ROW GI practices are vegetated and may or may not have trees. They have inlet and outlet structures that direct stormwater runoff flow from the street gutters in and out of the ROW GI practice.

3 Protection Method

Any construction activity that would impact the condition, infiltration capabilities, or general plant health of ROW GI practices shall require the below protective measures:

- Flow control at inlet/outlet - sandbags shall be placed at each inlet and outlet of the ROW GI practice. A sufficient number of sandbags shall be placed to completely block flow from entering the ROW GI practice.
- Debris and dust control – plastic tarps shall be placed and secured over the ROW GI practice to prevent debris and excessive dust resulting from construction from settling into the engineered soil and obstructing infiltration and harming vegetation.
• Temporary fencing – a wooden fence or similar protection shall be used as a temporary protection zone during construction in order to avoid damage to the tree guards and tree. No post shall be placed inside the ROW GI practice.
• Storage of construction materials, disposing of construction waste or effluent, or illegal dumping within the ROW GI practice is strictly prohibited.

Common contaminants include, but are not limited to, runoff from wet saw-cutting of sidewalks or roadways, runoff seeping from stockpiled soils or materials, debris from street milling activities, dust and other fine particles, general construction litter and debris.

Excessive damage may result in loss of functionality and will require reconstruction of the ROW GI practice.

4 Maintenance and Removal

Access to ROW GI practices will be provided at all times to allow for maintenance crews to maintain and inspect.

ROW GI practices shall remain protected, closed, and all protection measures will remain in-place and maintained until the construction activity is complete and DOT Street Opening Permit is no longer required.