

Project Profile: Osborne Association

Project Owner: The Osborne Association
Project Location: 809 Westchester Avenue
Watershed: East River Open Waters
GI Technology: Integrated Blue and Green Roof
Impervious Area: 12,197 sf
Storage Capacity: 100,000 gallons annually
Year Completed: 2013
GI Grant Award: \$288,000

For over eighty years, the Osborne Association has offered opportunities for individuals who have been in conflict with the law to transform their lives through innovative, effective, and replicable programs that serve the community by reducing crime and its human and economic costs. The Osborne Association advocates alternatives to incarceration that respect the dignity of people and honor their capacity to change.

The new rooftop system controls stormwater runoff by combining “blue” detention trays that slow the flow of stormwater into the sewer system and “green” trays that contain soil and vegetation to absorb rainwater and improve air quality. The system is expected to reduce runoff from the building’s roof area by 32 percent during a typical NYC storm. Monitoring equipment has also been installed to measure the amount of precipitation that falls on the roof as well as the rate at which it enters the sewer system.

The combination of blue and green roof technology also ensures an ecological balance of water and vegetation on the roof that offers a perfect habitat for the organizations’ bees, which live in hives located on an adjacent roof. Osborne plans to launch its honey business in 2014.

The system was installed by Rising Sun Construction LLC and will be maintained with the help of graduates from Osborne’s Career Center.



South Rooftop Before



South Rooftop Complete



North Rooftop Complete