



# Long-Term Stormwater Planning

Jamie Piziali & Rachel Urban  
USEPA/Headquarters



For more information, and to follow the initiative's progress, visit  
[www.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater-planning](http://www.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater-planning)

# Water Infrastructure Improvement Act

- Signed January 14, 2019.
- Defines green infrastructure and formalizes EPA's Green Infrastructure Program in the CWA.
- Amends the CWA to codify integrated planning and define it as a plan developed in accordance with EPA's 2012 "Integrated Planning Framework."
- Report to Congress required by January 14, 2021 on permits and enforcement actions with Integrated Plans developed since the 2012 Framework.
- Creates an Office of the Municipal Ombudsman.



# What is Integrated Planning?

## Integrated Planning Framework (2012)

- A voluntary opportunity for municipalities to meet CWA obligations by sequencing **Wastewater** and **Stormwater** projects.
- Allows innovative approaches like green infrastructure.
- Provides guidance for EPA, States, and local governments in developing and implementing effective integrated plans.
- Identifies operating principles and essential elements of an integrated plan (e.g., stakeholder engagement, project prioritization).



# What is a long-term stormwater plan?

A proactive strategy to address flooding and stormwater pollution by syncing stormwater projects with the community's long-term vision and plans.

- Efficiently syncs stormwater management with capital improvement plans, comprehensive plans and master plans.
- Explores asset management programs, sustainable financing and other strategies that build capacity to support reliable infrastructure.



# Three Main Steps to produce a long-term stormwater plan



## Assess where the community is now

- Current community challenges and water management practices.
- Long-term vision and goals based on community priorities.

## Analyze opportunities

- Hear from community members.
- Develop and prioritize actions that are most important to the community.
- Find ways to save money by aligning seemingly unrelated community projects.

## Move toward implementation

- Identify potential long-term financing opportunities.
- Identify ways to measure and share successes with the community.
- See Section of the planning guide.

# Building Capacity

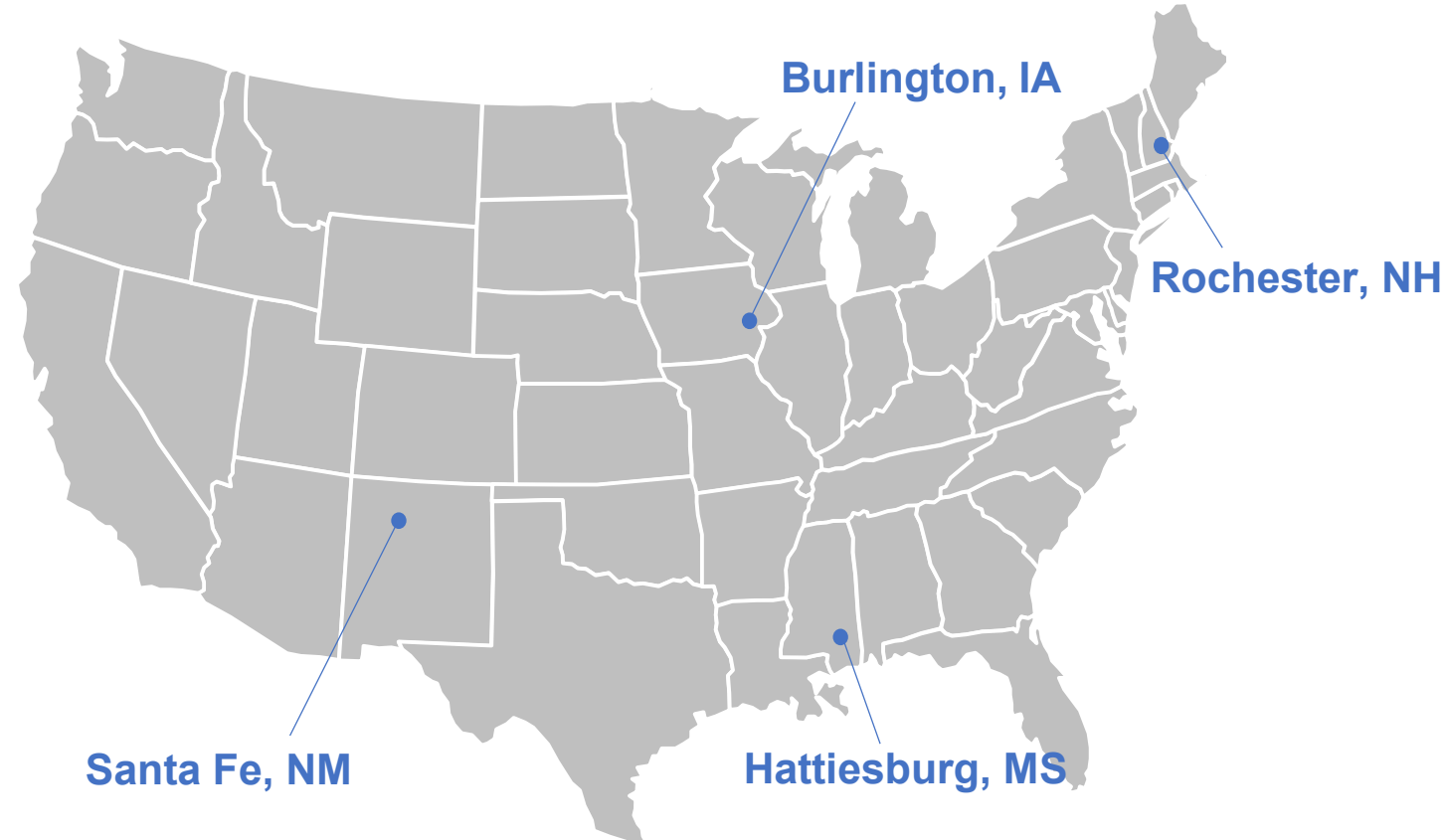
---

EPA collaborated with four communities across the country.

Plans, their process documentation, and lessons learned will be shared.

EPA intends the pilot plans to serve as examples to other communities who want to use long-term stormwater planning to make their vision of a safe and thriving community a reality.

---



# Santa Fe, New Mexico

- 
- Held a meeting with outside stakeholders at the beginning of the effort to solicit input that informed the city's goals.
  - Incorporating Green Infrastructure into Roadway Projects in Santa Fe
  - Government Funding Opportunities Document
  - Long-Term Stormwater Plan.



# Burlington, Iowa



- Site suitability analysis to help identify opportunities to improve stormwater management across the city.
- Tools and resources to inform the city's integrated planning effort.
- Greening America's Communities design charrette to develop design options for complete green streets in two downtown corridors.



# Hattiesburg, Mississippi

- 
- Incorporating checklists and pieces of documents to help get to the next steps.
  - Greening America's Communities design charette with community members.
  - Focus in part on resiliency.



# Rochester, New Hampshire

- 
- Checklists and other relevant documents to help get to the next steps.
  - Site suitability analysis to help identify opportunities to improve stormwater management across the city.



# A Few Thoughts



Find ways to save money by aligning seemingly unrelated community projects.



Link to goals beyond stormwater. Determine what's important in the community and tie it back.



Shift towards asset management to be more efficient and make informed decisions.

# A Few Thoughts (Cont'd)



Procedures

There are plans for EVERYthing →  
plan fatigue



Coordinate

Do it right.  
It takes time.



Find Champions

It's not always easy,  
but it can be made simpler.



Lots o' benefits

Keep with it. It's worth it. →  
Accountability



Prioritize

Don't do everything at once →  
Short & Long-term goals

---

Communities are finding the benefits from **long-term approaches** go well beyond helping to meet regulatory requirements *and* **turn hazards into opportunities.**

---

## **U.S. EPA**

October 2016 Memorandum on Community  
Solutions for Stormwater Management