



Franklin Regional Council of Governments

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 18, 2015

SUBJECT: FIRST OF THREE WORKSHOP PRESENTATIONS ON STORMWATER MITIGATION AND LOW IMPACT DEVELOPMENT IN THE WESTERN MILLERS RIVER WATERSHED
DATE: FRIDAY, MAY 29, 2015

The Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) and the Millers River Watershed Council (MRWC) are hosting a free workshop on Friday, May 29, 2015 from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm at the John W. Olver Transit Center located at 12 Olive St., Greenfield, MA, in the first floor Community Room. The workshop is the first in a series of three presentations on stormwater mitigation and low impact development in the Western Millers River Watershed and will introduce environmental issues related to stormwater runoff, impairment of surface waters within the Western Millers River Watershed, and Low Impact Development (LID) as a means to reduce pollution from stormwater runoff. Towns located within the Western Millers River Watershed include Orange, Montague, Northfield, Warwick, Erving, Wendell, and New Salem. All interested parties from these towns and throughout the region are encouraged to attend, including: local officials, Highway Department staff, Planning Boards, Conservation Commissions, Building Inspectors, developers, local residents, students, and the regional business community.

The workshop will provide an opportunity for interested parties to hear from the Franklin Regional Council of Governments, the Millers River Watershed Council, and representatives from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection on changing requirements for stormwater management, LID, and impaired waterbodies in Millers River Watershed.

The second workshop in the series will be held on Friday, September 18, 2015 from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm at the JWO Transit Center and will focus on LID technologies and Best Management Practices. The second workshop will be preceded on the same date by a Franklin County LID Field Trip from 1:00 pm to 3:45 pm, which will take participants on a bus tour of LID sites located in Greenfield, Deerfield, Turners Falls, and Orange. Interested parties will be able to participate in one or both of the day's events.

The third and final workshop will be held on Friday, October 16, 2015 from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm at the JWO Transit Center and will focus on LID bylaw and ordinance development, and other ways in which LID can be incorporated into local land use planning and regulations.

This workshop series is funded through a grant from the US Environmental Protection Agency's Section 319 Nonpoint Source Pollution Grant Program, administered by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection. This project is a follow-on to the Eastern Millers River Watershed LID project conducted by Montachusett Regional Planning Commission (MRPC) and Millers River Watershed Council (MRWC) in 2011-2013.

To reserve your seat for this free event, please RSVP to Registrations@frcog.org by May 25, 2015. The workshop agenda can viewed on the FRCOG website at www.frcog.org by clicking on the calendar item under Meetings and Events. Light refreshments will be provided. For more information, please contact Ivan Ussach at the MRWC at 978-248-9491 or ivan@millersriver.net.