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INFORMATION FROM THE  
**CAPE COD COMMISSION**  
BARNSTABLE COUNTY



CAPE COD  
COMMISSION

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## CCC Wins EPA Support for 'Green Infrastructure' Wastewater Pilot Projects in Barnstable and Yarmouth

BARNSTABLE COUNTY, MA -- The Cape Cod Commission today received an award for technical assistance, valued at \$75,000, from the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) "Green Infrastructure Program" under EPA's Water Permits Division and Office of Civil Enforcement. The EPA received more than 150 letters of interest in the program nationally, out of which the Commission's application and 16 others were selected.

The Commission will partner with the Town of Barnstable and the Town of Yarmouth for a wastewater management-related green infrastructure project in the Lewis Bay and Parkers River watersheds. Implementation of green infrastructure options, such as constructed wetlands and low-impact development (LID) stormwater management techniques, could reduce the need for more costly, traditional infrastructure to meet nitrogen-loading limits (TMDLs) in portions of these two nitrogen-impacted watersheds.

"Green infrastructure techniques, such as those to be evaluated in these pilot projects, have the potential to provide environmental, ecological, social, and economic benefits to the residents of these densely developed communities," explains Commission Deputy Director Patty Daley. "Our vision is to help re-establish community connections to open space, resulting in a better and healthier environment in which to live, work, and play."

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In its grant application, the Commission suggests that success with pilot projects involving green infrastructure could combine with other solutions to result in effective pollution treatment. The initiative in the project's Barnstable and Yarmouth watersheds may result in a cost-effective model for other Cape towns. Project results will help facilitate discussion and better enable the Commission to provide guidance to local communities as they attempt to implement sustainable options.

Chief Planner Sharon Rooney sees the grant as an opportunity to merge engineering, design, and community benefits. "We're looking forward to working with the communities to identify opportunities to use green infrastructure to help reduce nitrogen impacts to our embayments," she says. "This project will also help support the Commission's regional wastewater planning effort by providing additional data to support the use of green infrastructure in local wastewater planning."

The joint Commission/Barnstable/Yarmouth project will involve working with an EPA contractor to:

- identify suitable green infrastructure techniques in the target locations;
- develop conceptual designs (from site inventories, aerial photography, GIS data and mapping analyses, and more) and watershed modeling that will quantify water-quality benefits; and
- identify preliminary cost estimates.

"Commission and Barnstable County representatives have been speaking directly to town officials and the public throughout Cape Cod for many months now," adds Daley. "We can affirm that the notion of one 'big pipe' solution for all the Cape's wastewater needs is out of the question. These projects will inform us greatly about additional options."

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**ABOUT THE CAPE COD COMMISSION:**

Cape Cod Commission is the regional land use planning, economic development, and regulatory agency created in 1990 to serve the citizens and 15 towns that comprise Barnstable County, Massachusetts, better known as Cape Cod. The Commission works toward maintaining a healthy balance between economic progress and environmental vitality. "Keeping a special place special" describes the agency's mission to protect the region's unique qualities. The 19-member volunteer Cape Cod Commission board represents a wide spectrum of the community and provides oversight for a staff of 40 professionals. The Commission is responsible for regional planning, policy, and regulations to help manage growth, and the agency supports the Cape's 15 towns with cost-effective planning and technical services. For more information, visit: [www.capecodcommission.org](http://www.capecodcommission.org)