Blue Cities

**Site-Scale Demonstration Projects**

**Everett Street Greening Demonstration Project, Allston MA**

Everett Street offered opportunities for green infrastructure adjacent to the German International School of Boston. CRWA designed and oversaw construction for a system of green infrastructure including rain gardens, permeable pavement and stormwater tree pits to improve site aesthetics and collect and treat stormwater runoff. Following the first phase of construction, CRWA worked with volunteers including students from the German International School of Boston to plant a rain garden at the edge of the parking lot adjoining the school building. CRWA also organized the planting of trees on the school property. Volunteers from the school, Saint Anthony’s Church, and community members helped dig holes, prepare the soil, and plant the trees. In addition to improving air quality, the new vegetation helps beautify the area, while providing shade and reducing summer temperatures. This demonstration project shows the community the connection between green infrastructure, stormwater management and ultimately water quality.

**Peabody Square Green Street Pilot, Boston MA**

Peabody Square, located in the Ashmont section of Dorchester, MA, is at the center of a vibrant commercial and residential urban neighborhood. Working with the City of Boston and its consultants, CRWA developed a Green Street design for Peabody Square which was built in 2011. This innovative pilot project includes a pedestrian plaza with porous pavers, a rain garden, and a stormwater trench to help manage stormwater. One of the most significant impacts of CRWA’s outreach efforts and this partnership between CRWA and the City of Boston has been the incorporation of green street strategies into Boston’s Complete Streets Design Guidelines.

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German School Students help plant in the rain garden trench created to treat stormwater runoff from the school parking lot

Rain gardens treat stormwater runoff from street and public plaza at Peabody Square in Dorchester

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Blue Cities
Neighborhood-Scale Demonstration Projects

Subwatershed Plan for Broadway, Chelsea, MA
Chelsea, MA is an industrialized city on the Mystic River and the second most densely populated city in Massachusetts. CRWA collaborated with community members and organizations in Chelsea to develop plans for green infrastructure which will improve neighborhood health and aesthetics and reduce pollution in local waterways. Working with project partners Mystic River Watershed Association (MyRWA), Chelsea Collaborative, the City of Chelsea and the Massachusetts Area Planning Council, the project drew upon the expertise of each organization while perfecting new tools and models to manage stormwater and promote environmental restoration in a largely minority neighborhood struggling with disproportionate levels of pollution. The project empowered residents, Environmental Chelsea Organizers (ECO) youth, and property owners to participate in public meetings and design charrettes and to help map existing conditions. Using the ideas generated by the community, CRWA developed a plan with recommendations for incorporating green infrastructure along the Broadway corridor.

Allston Brighton Green Space Guidelines, Boston MA
In Allston Brighton, an urban neighborhood of Boston with many congested streets, CRWA worked with the Allston Brighton Community Development Corporation’s (ABCDC) Green Space Advocates to develop the Green Street Guide for Allston Brighton for three pilot streets. The three streets chosen for this project each faced stormwater challenges and unsafe or limited bike and pedestrian access. Gathering community input through design charrettes and workshops, CRWA and ABCDC developed a guidelines document outlining opportunities for green infrastructure retrofits, improved bike, pedestrian, and traffic access, and more public greenspaces. As they are implemented, these guidelines will create a healthier, greener neighborhood.

-- View the guidelines document at www.crwa.org/bluecities/community#allston-brighton --

About Charles River Watershed Association
Winner of the 2011 Thiess International Riverprize for the Charles River, CRWA is an environmental research and advocacy group founded in 1965. Dedicated to restoring and protecting the Charles River, we use the Charles as our laboratory to develop practical, cost-effective and sustainable solutions for restoring urban watershed health. Led by an executive director, our staff includes a hydrologist, engineer, environmental scientists, a planner, and an attorney.