

“Dig Once”

refers to the objective that green infrastructure (GI) projects be installed while the ground is already disturbed or excavated for other infrastructure projects.

This approach leads to greater efficiency and overall cost benefits, but also requires a high level of **collaboration** and **integration** between municipal departments.



By streamlining municipal processes and planning, a community can improve the chance of successful green infrastructure implementation.

*Streamlining does not occur overnight, but requires a **level of commitment (state to local)** and **willingness to make some mistakes** along the way. It requires an **adaptive management approach**.*

Recommendations for Improving Municipal Processes & Planning:

Increasing commitment, complexity, or level of effort

Increase Communication and Coordination

- ✓ Identify a local or regional "GI champion" and engage partners early in the process.
- ✓ When communicating, clearly establish purpose, need, and context for GI.
- ✓ Educate elected officials using simple and compelling messaging.
- ✓ Develop “plug and play” tool to communicate with public works or CIP staff.
- ✓ Add GI sites to GIS and infrastructure layers and maps available to the public.

Enhance Municipal Codes, Policies & Processes

- ✓ Revise local codes and policies that present impediments for GI.
- ✓ Adopt policies to consider GI with all departmental concept and CIP planning.
- ✓ Develop and implement a process to identify and prioritize candidate GI projects.
- ✓ Build a feasibility step into project planning.
- ✓ Ensure all projects have maintenance agreements with a duration of *at least* 10 years.

Enhance Staffing

- ✓ Provide ongoing training to address staff turnover.
- ✓ Provide training, career advancement, and other incentives to build long-term maintenance capacity.
- ✓ Develop or integrate existing regional staff position.

Advocate for GI at Higher Levels of Government

- ✓ Work with Chesapeake Bay Program partners to garner more support and rewards for local GI implementation.

For more information, contact Mary Gattis, Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay’s Director of Local Government Programs, at mgattis@allianceforthebay.org or 717-475-8390. You may access the full report titled *Streamlining Integrated Infrastructure Implementation “Dig Once” Strategy Development Workshop Report* here: http://www.chesapeakebay.net/documents/GI_Integration_Final_Workshop_Report.pdf