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 aWomen Business Enterprise (WBE)

Class Offerings
Teaching & Facilitation Experience



Green Girl Land Development Solutions was specifically started to help practitioners of all levels of knowledge about sustainable sites cut to the chase. Through an open-source

business model, Maria uses her fourteen years experience creating sustainable sites for green buildings to provide clients and class attendees with the information and tools they need to find the best solutions for their particular site and stakeholder conditions.

Audiences: Maria has presented and taught many times in the last 6 years to developers, planners, scientists, architects, landscape architects, engineers, contractors, maintenance staff, college students, and homeowners at governmental agencies and non-profit trainings, engineering and environmental conferences, colleges and universities, professional membership organizations, and more.

Class Offerings

All classes can be offered as a 1-hour overview, but the most benefit from them comes when more time is available for in-depth explanations, discussions, and to put the ideas into practice with learning activities. The focus of these trainings is to weave inter-related practices together in meaningful ways so that participants can move forward with more sustainable choices and fewer unintended consequences.

Below is a brief description of each class. More detailed descriptions of learning objectives and active learning (kinesthetic) opportunities are available for by request. Classes are very likely to qualify for continuing education credits.

Sustainable Principles for Land Development

Duration: 1 – 2 hours

This is an introduction on strategies to incorporate sustainability in land development projects. Understanding how current development practices impact the benefit air, water, soil, and vegetation provide will help designers and decision makers

choose better alternatives. We will answer the question, “What is sustainable stormwater?” and discuss a smattering of best management practices and their synergistic benefit in meeting other sustainable goals. This class can be, and often is, used as the introduction for the rest of the following classes.

Sustainable Site Master Planning

Duration: 1 – 8 hours

Sustainable planning is a process of optimizing opportunities and constraints through a collaborative process. Learning to identify who should be involved, when, and what they have to offer depending on natural conditions is key to a successful project. Organized around site inventory and best practices checklist, attendees will understand how to narrow or expand their choice of best practices to apply on a site during the design, construction, and operations and maintenance phases.



Class duration varies based on the desired depth of learning. For instance, the all-day session incorporates a robust list of best management practices. Attendees create their own master plan from a case study and spend the bulk of the rest of the day in activities geared to refine their master plan based on how design, construction, and maintenance considerations may come into play.



Site Strategies to Reduce Energy Demand

Duration: 1 – 3 hours

This training provides information on best management practices outdoors that can reduce demand for energy indoors through sustainable landscape design, construction, and operations and

maintenance. Students will be able to employ various vegetated and non-vegetated strategies to reduce energy demand inside the building considering macro- and microclimates.

Class duration varies based on the desired depth of learning. More time means a greater variety of exercises with different design criteria. Practices to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, independent of energy savings for the building owner, can also be incorporated.

Vegetated Stormwater Facilities Overview

Duration: 1 – 8 hours

This class serves as an introduction to choosing between the many variations of vegetated stormwater facilities including rain gardens, stormwater planters, swales, and vegetated filter strips. In relative terms, we will explore how the sizing and facility type affect water quality and volume disposal. We'll also touch on plant choices and some basic design considerations for promoting improved water quality and ease of maintenance.

Vegetated Stormwater Facilities for Challenging Sites

Duration: 1 - 2 hours

This class was developed to enhance longer classes on rain gardens or as a class for people with previous knowledge of the basics. Attendees learn how to safely and sustainably site, design, and construct rain gardens on sites constrained by high groundwater tables, steep slopes, and clay soils. Variations on rain garden designs and details reinforce concepts.

Sustainable Materials Choices for Vegetated Stormwater Facilities

Duration: 1 hour

This class was developed to enhance longer classes on rain gardens. Attendees learn what materials are toxic, non-toxic, or questionable and why, as well as alternatives that function similarly but are non- or less toxic.

Best Practices for Sustainable Sites under Construction

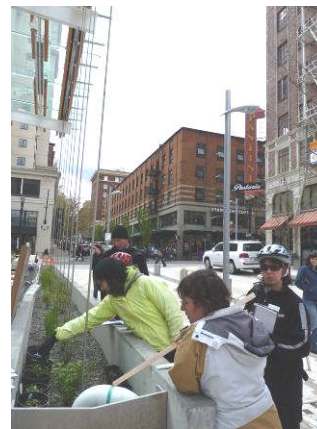
Duration: 1 – 3 hours

Students will apply best management practices to protect natural resources during construction. Specifically, students will learn how and when to prevent erosion, control sediment, and preserve and restore soil during wet and dry weather conditions.

Vegetated Stormwater Facilities Technical Field Class (aka Rain Gardens 201)

Duration: 2-5 hours

In this outdoor class, we visit different vegetated stormwater facilities and students learn to critically analyze them. They learn how small changes in design can affect the long-term functioning and maintenance needs of a facility. Students will also understand how siting, design, construction, and O&M choices relate to sustainability and cost.



In cities without many low impact development facilities to visit, we will also spend some time looking at how public and private sites might be retrofitted.

References

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