

# Green Innovation Grant Program

**Project Title:** Gowanus Canal Sponge Park

**Grant Recipient:** New York City Dept. of Environmental Protection

**Location:** Brooklyn, Kings County, NY

**Green Infrastructure Practice:** Bioretention

**EFC Grant Amount:** \$535,000

**Total Project Amount:** \$1,408,000

GIGP ROUND 4



*Projected Construction Start 10/2013*

## Project Description:

Located along an industrial waterway in Brooklyn, the Gowanus Canal Sponge Park is a planned public open space with green infrastructure elements designed to remediate contaminated water and reduce stormwater runoff volumes. The project will help establish much-needed wildlife habitat and open space for this mixed-use industrial-residential community.

The first phase of the project will construct a series of bioretention basins and curbside bioswales at street-ends along the 70-street block site. These will be combined with cisterns and constructed marshlands to help restore hydrologic functioning and ecological productivity in the area. The GIGP portion will install a street-end bioretention system that will capture stormwater as it flows

along the roadway, slowing and filtering it in a series of swales before it enters the “sponge,” or bioretention basin near the canal.

The designers’ intent is to produce a replicable stormwater treatment system that can be applied to urban areas across the country, as well as to advance green infrastructure design innovation and promote its feasibility and cost effectiveness. The project also will serve to foster the public’s environmental awareness of both the Gowanus Canal and the larger Hudson Raritan Estuary. Educational signage explaining the stormwater management strategy and its ecological benefits will be integrated into the design.



*The Gowanus Canal edge is shown in its current condition.*



*Sketch of the Gowanus Canal edge after implementation of the proposed “Sponge Park.”*

