



# Beyond the Basics 2022: Weathering the Storm: Building Resilient Communities Through Design



February 24, 2022

## Call for Presentations

The Conservation Foundation is looking for presentations for its upcoming Beyond the Basics Stormwater Management Virtual Conference to be held on **February 24th, 2022** from 8:00 -11:30 A.M.

[Submit Presentation Abstract](#) through **December 17th, 2021**.

With your help, the Beyond the Basics Stormwater Management Conference has become Chicagoland's premier stormwater conference. We anticipate receiving an awesome array of projects and presentations for this half-day event. If your presentation is not selected for this conference, it may be considered for future stormwater workshops that we are planning for next spring. This is THE place to showcase your organizations expertise in the field of Stormwater Management.

### **Goals for the Conference include:**

- Elevating the status of stormwater management within all communities to be a part of discussions and ordinances in planning/zoning, engineering and public works.
- Making the connection between good stormwater management and stream health and how that relates to NPDES wastewater and MS4 stormwater permits.
- To showcase the expertise that is available in our region.
- Instill into practice that long-term, funded maintenance and management are key to a project's ultimate success.

### **Presentations:**

Our theme this year is *"Weathering the Storm: Building Resilient Communities Through Design."* In the past, stormwater was treated as waste and conveyed from sites using "gray" water infrastructure to move it into the waterways as quickly as possible. Such a singular approach to stormwater is no longer possible or desirable. In an age of climate change, urbanization and increasingly frequent, intense storms and prolonged droughts, cities are now treating stormwater as a resource to be valued, not wastewater to be managed. We are also facing aging and failing infrastructure that can be costly to repair or replace. Are there innovative or alternate solutions to replace costly "gray" infrastructure? Are there programs in other states or globally that can be implemented in our watersheds? Consider unique techniques used or developed to overcome challenges faced on projects. Are there existing products that can be used in a new way? As you put your presentation together, think about what you design now will be in place for 20 or 30 years, so how are you designing for future conditions?

Our target audience includes elected officials, plan commissioners, developers, real estate professionals, municipal/county staff from engineering, public works, planning and zoning as well as inspectors, consultants and contractors. This year, because of our current gathering restrictions and for everyone's safety, we are going to have a virtual conference. We will start with a keynote speaker and then follow with three presentations. A short list of presentation topics/themes has been provided on the next page as a starting point and is by no means an all-inclusive list – we are interested in all your thoughts and ideas with the goal of making this the premier stormwater management conference to attend in 2022.

### Topic/Theme Ideas – Technical, Implementation or Applicability

- Innovative Technology (e.g., Real-Time Controls, Emerging Technologies, Integrated Systems, Innovative Design)
- How have you changed your approach to designing stormwater facilities because of new treatments or technology?
- Have you tackled a project with non-typical partners?
- Have you found new ways to address old problems?
- What project obstacles have required new solutions?
- Analytic methods, models and technology to study, monitor and predict climate change impacts and extreme events for communities.
- Case studies that build resilience into the design concept or utilizes new techniques to combat climate change.

### Topic/Theme Ideas – Policy, Procedures, Funding or Communication

- Ordinances and/or design plans to meet or exceed updated regulations that address climate change
- Stormwater financing – how to get over the hurdles, how to incorporate more into existing programs.
- Successful collaborative, communication and public engagement opportunities for addressing climate change.
- Economic and regulatory policy for our changing environment.

Submittals will be accepted until **close of business Friday, December 17th, 2021.**

Final decisions will be made by **January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022.**

[Click Here to Submit your Presentation Abstract](#)

Please contact Jan Roehll at [jroehll@theconservationfoundation.org](mailto:jroehll@theconservationfoundation.org) or 630-428-4500 x121 for information or with any questions about the virtual event.

### Program Sponsors:

