

May 5, 2016 6:00-8:30 pm
Arsenal Bldg, 3rd Floor Gallery
830 5th Avenue, New York, NY

Reducing water pollution in a dynamic world: the critical role of green infrastructure investments in enhancing the resilience of urban landscapes

Drawing from local, regional, and international case studies, this talk will explore the potential role that multifunctional green infrastructure (GI) systems may be able to play in promoting urban resilience. In the US context, GI is primarily funded as a stormwater reduction measure, and for this reason it must, at a minimum, provide this service reliably. Though research confirms that GI systems can, in fact, reduce runoff at the site, block, and watershed scale, much less is known about the other services these systems may provide in urban ecosystems, when they are strategically conceived, sited, and designed. Because GI programs are typically being implemented in the context of adaptive management, the opportunity for practitioners, researchers, regulators, and community leaders to work together to pilot, monitor, and verify new GI configurations is upon us. Doing so requires flexibility, creativity, and the institutional willingness to attempt new things.

Franco A. Montalto, PE, PhD is an Associate Professor in the Department of Civil, Architectural, and Environmental Engineering at Drexel University, where he also directs the Sustainable Water Resource Engineering Laboratory. His expertise includes urban ecohydrology, stormwater management, green infrastructure, hydraulic and hydrologic modeling, and cross-cutting topics in urban sustainability, adaptation, and resilience planning. In addition to his academic teaching and research he is the founder and president of eDesign Dynamics LLC, an environmental consulting firm based in New York City.

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Franco Montalto



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