**Course Name:** Neighborhood-Scale Green Infrastructure: New Water-First Design Paradigm

**Provided By:** AIA Pittsburgh

**Course Date:** 04/12/2018

**About:**

A new paradigm of “water-first” design has substantial implications for architects, designers, and buildings developed in the Pittsburgh region in the next decade.

Under a long-term Consent Decree to reduce combined and sanitary sewer overflows to our streams and rivers, the City of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority, ALCOSAN, and numerous regional partners are presently in a state of substantial strategic transition. Whereas past efforts have focused on exploring green infrastructure as a series of pilot installations to assess general feasibility and performance of rain gardens, porous pavement, bioswales, and green roofs on a case-by-case basis, recent efforts are finally moving towards watershed-scale and neighborhood-scale implementation, with significant investment in green infrastructure solutions planned over the next five to ten years.

In addition to identifying these City-wide trends, the presenters will discuss this transition from green infrastructure as pilot projects to green infrastructure as de facto stormwater “infrastructure.” This new water-first design paradigm requires newfound consideration of and respect for historical and preferential drainage patterns, both at the site scale and at the more holistic neighborhood scale. With these new design principles also comes new opportunity for collaboration, cost sharing, new financing tools by the City and sewer authorities, and potential efficiencies between developers, the City and its agencies, the sewer authorities, utility companies, and the community at large.

**Learning Objectives:**

1. Identify city-wide trends in green infrastructure and watershed-scale planning as they relate to individual site development.
2. Recognize how “water-first” design requires newfound consideration of and respect for historical and preferential drainage patterns, both at the site scale and at the more holistic neighborhood scale.
3. Discuss how stormwater management on individual sites can perhaps be integrated into the larger sustainability planning initiatives of the City of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority, ALCOSAN, and others.
4. Understand conventional, alternative, and future financing opportunities for funding of substantial green infrastructure and sustainability projects within the City.

**URL:** <http://aiapgh.org/aia-programs-events/build-pittsburgh/presenters-programming-2018/>

**LEED Specific:** No

**GBCI CEUs:** 1.5

**AIA LU/HSW Hours:** 1.5