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**American Rivers**  
*Rivers Connect Us*

## People and Water: The Involvement of Community Groups and Nonprofits in Green Infrastructure Practice



# Nonprofit Group

An organized entity with a board, tax-exempt status, and usually a budget



# Community

A loosely organized group comprised of volunteers, with a specific geographic focus and mission





# Implementation & Maintenance

- Installation
  - Project Management
  - Project Design
  - Citizen Mobilization and Participation
- Maintenance
  - Training
  - Public Education
  - Actual Maintenance



# Public Outreach



# Local Policy

- Influence and change local ordinances
- Attend public meetings
- Assist on meeting permit requirements
- Influence state and local manuals
- Advise elected officials





# Toledo, OH

**Maywood Avenue Retrofit  
Project.**

**Rain Barrel Program**

**Rain Garden Initiative**



# Rain Barrels





# Maywood





# Maywood



# Engaging community groups and non-profits

- Early communication is key
- Understand their limitations and differences, while acknowledging their strengths
  - Every group is different: niche, budget, membership
  - Tax exempt status
  - Budget and size restrictions
- Understand difference between partnership work and contract work
- While you may have a shared goal, organizational missions may differ significantly.
- Keep lines of communication open, particularly with advocacy organizations. Be willing to listen, and open to new ideas.