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For Immediate Release – September 19, 2018

## **City of Northampton selects GZA to Design Green Infrastructure to Advance Climate Resiliency and Regeneration Plan**

Mayor David J. Narkewicz announced today that GZA GeoEnvironmental, Inc. (GZA), a leading multi-disciplinary firm providing geotechnical, environmental, ecological, water, and construction management services, has been selected by the City of Northampton to advance the City's Climate Resiliency and Regeneration Plan by assessing 10 locations for the feasibility of designing green infrastructure for flood control and stormwater management.

The project is being funded in part with a \$330,000 grant from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts' Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Action Grant Program and a \$70,000 match from the City as part of the broader and associated Climate Resiliency and Regeneration Plan work. Staff at the Office of Planning & Sustainability and the Department of Public Works will assist with project management and permitting.

"This is the next step in the vulnerability assessment work started earlier this year that identified designing green infrastructure for stormwater as a top priority," stated Mayor Narkewicz, "I'm looking forward to seeing the designs GZA creates so we may incorporate them into our stormwater management planning."

In partnership with Nitsch Engineering and Linnean Solutions, GZA will collaborate with the City of Northampton's Office of Planning & Sustainability and Department of Public Works to examine using nature-based solutions for climate resiliency. Green infrastructure, such as berms, swales, rain gardens and pervious surfaces on properties identified by the City, will be designed by GZA's staff in Springfield, Massachusetts, to detain and retain stormwater runoff from heavy precipitation and extreme weather events to reduce storm damages caused by flooding.

The green infrastructure projects to be constructed will be prioritized and approved by the City based on their feasibility, cost-effectiveness, and ability to mitigate flooding hazards and reduce property damages to nearby roads, homes and businesses at a lower total cost than traditional storm drains and catch basins.

GZA CEO Bill Hadge said: "We have been working with Northampton for many years on a wide range of stormwater management and dam engineering design projects. We're honored to be selected to lead this innovative green infrastructure design project to help the City build greater natural resilience to flood risks."

New strategies for managing stormwater and flooding are expected to become an increasingly pressing challenge for Massachusetts communities. The UMass Amherst RiverSmart project estimates<sup>1</sup> precipitation in the North Atlantic region will increase 10 to 30 percent by 2100, including a growing number of extreme inundation events.

Northampton will serve as a model of collaboration for engineers, ecologists, landscape architects, public works departments, residents, and business owners to adapt infrastructure to protect cities, reduce costs, improve water quality, and build resilience to the impacts of climate change.

### **About GZA**

Founded in 1964, GZA is a multi-disciplinary, employee-owned firm providing Geotechnical, Environmental, Ecological, Water, and Construction Management services. GZA's more than 650 professionals are based in 32 offices in New England, the Mid-Atlantic, and the Great Lakes States. Our corporate headquarters is at 249 Vanderbilt Avenue, Norwood, MA 02062. For additional information, please call Angela Cincotta, Chief of Marketing and Communications at 781-278-5777 or visit [www.gza.com](http://www.gza.com).

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<sup>1</sup> <https://extension.umass.edu/riversmart/sites/extension.umass.edu.riversmart/files/pdf-doc-ppt/Supporting%20New%20England%20Communities-web.pdf>