The construction of a new parking garage in Portland, Maine left little permeable space for stormwater drainage and the lack of available space in the urban setting, runoff and challenged most traditional biofiltration systems as a solution. A known shallow storm drain located on the adjacent street combined with the street grade of Brown Street made matters even more difficult.

**Goal:** The solution required a biofiltration system that would:
- Fit into a very small footprint
- Be cost-effective
- Convey/bypass larger storms
- Provide aesthetic appeal

**INSTALLATION / SOLUTION**

Due to space constraints, FocalPoint systems were deployed in a series of 3-ft wide raised planters between the garage and the sidewalk. As an added benefit, FocalPoint is a green infrastructure system facilitating stormwater treatment and streetscape beautification. Stormwater runoff enters each system from external downspouts into river stone splash pads and then proceeds into the FocalPoint systems for treatment. These systems were terraced with interconnecting weirs and spillways so that if any one of the individual systems were to become overwhelmed, the excess runoff could move down to the next system without spilling onto the sidewalk. Domed overflow risers fitted with filter inserts were also added to help handle larger storm events. By using the raised FocalPoint planter approach, the engineer was able to provide additional aesthetic value, as opposed to selecting a buried vault treatment system.

**RESULTS**

This aesthetically pleasing, green FocalPoint application has proven successful both during the summer and cold New England winters. Maintenance is straightforward and at waist height, creating a simple process for ownership. In addition, this green infrastructure solution has inspired other local designers to adopt similar approaches on similar urban projects in the area.
BROWN ST. PARKING GARAGE
PORTLAND, MAINE

ADDITIONAL PHOTOS

Raised planter wall completion

Modular box underdrain and overflow set in place

Bridging stone layer placed

Complete FocalPoint raised planter

Completed vegetated planter

Completed systems

For more information about our stormwater management products, contact Inside Sales at 800.448.3636
or by email at info@acfenv.com