

Gateway Cities & Rivers Urban Greening Greenscapes + Benefits



G-1 UNDERUTILIZED PARKING LOTS

From Parking to Plazas



Benefits



CLIMATE



ECOLOGY



WATER



ECONOMY



AESTHETICS

Description

Not all parking lots are created equal. Some lots are oversized for their needs or are simply not used at night or on weekends. Transforming portions of underutilized parking lots to shaded, tree-lined, permeable urban plazas creates new recreational options for park-poor communities.

Greenscape Strategies

Water Capture, Diversion & Recycling

Permeable Surfaces/Drywells

Rain Barrels/Cisterns

Bioswales/Rain Gardens

Notched Curbs

Greywater/Purple Pipe Irrigation

Programming Amenities

Parklets/Plazas

Informal Vending

Passive/Active Recreation

Farmers Market/Pop-Up Events

Community Event

Comfort Features (Bus Shelters, Benches, Lighting)

Signage (Wayfinding, Educational)

Cooling/Heat Island Reduction

Trees (Our Urban Forest)

Cool Pavement

Green Roofs (Gardens, Cool Roofs, Solar Canopies)

Active Transportation Connectivity

Bike Lanes/Paths, Pedestrian Paths, Greenways

Trailhead Access (Ped, Bike, Equestrian)

Equestrian Trails

Elevated Paths/Undercrossings

Micro-Mobility Hubs (Racks, Lockers, Share)

Parks/Open Space

Native Habitat Restoration

Edible Landscapes/Parkways

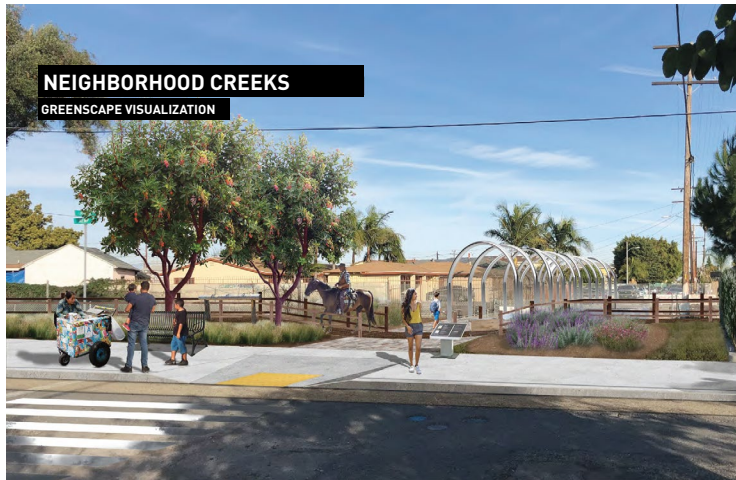
Community Garden

Mini-Parks (Vegetated)

Expanded Parks/Linear Parks/Open Space Access

G-2 NEIGHBORHOOD CREEKS

More Than A Ditch



Benefits



ECOLOGY



AESTHETICS



CONNECTIVITY



HEALTH



EQUITY

Description

Streams and creeks of the past still flow under and through our neighborhoods. The concrete “ditch” you see today was once a thriving natural waterway, supporting all types of plants and aquatic life. Although the nightly chorus of frogs may be gone, we can still open these creeks to greenway trails, restoring the connections between neighborhoods and schools, parks, churches and commercial centers.

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G-3 INFRASTRUCTURE CORRIDORS

Greenways From Leftover Spaces



Benefits



EQUITY



SAFETY



CONNECTIVITY



AESTHETICS

Description

Rail lines and electrical corridors run through many of our densest neighborhoods and take up a lot of space. Yet these spaces could also be used by people to relax, play, or soak up the sun. Communities are beginning to transform abandoned rail lines into popular trails and the spaces below electrical corridors into parks and community gardens, forming long swatches of accessible greenways along our rivers and throughout our communities.

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G-4 SCHOOLS

Greener Environments For Learning



Benefits



EQUITY EDUCATION HEALTH CLIMATE WATER

Description

Students learn best in natural settings, where they can explore and enjoy imaginative play. And yet, so many of our urban school playgrounds are coated with asphalt, searing hot from a lack of shade, and devoid of nature. Transforming schoolyards to places with views and access to nature can elevate students' minds, bodies, and spirits.

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G-5 URBAN RIVERS

Reconnecting Communities to River Greenways



Benefits



WATER



CLIMATE



HEALTH



AESTHETICS

Description

Some of the most amazing and memorable places are along rivers. But access to our urban river trails can be limited and parks are often spaced sporadically, making them feel less welcoming. By greening underutilized spaces along the edges of our rivers, we can serve the needs of people and increase habitat for wildlife.

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G-6 SINGLE FAMILY HOUSING

Bringing Nature Back, One Home at a Time



Benefits



WATER



CLIMATE



ECOLOGY



AIR

Description

Homeowners who reduce lawns and install nature-based solutions reap the rewards of bringing life back into their home landscapes. From simple measures like capturing rain and planting climate-appropriate natives, we can save on water and resource costs, and—most importantly—create thriving, eco-friendly landscapes full of birds, butterflies, and natural beauty.

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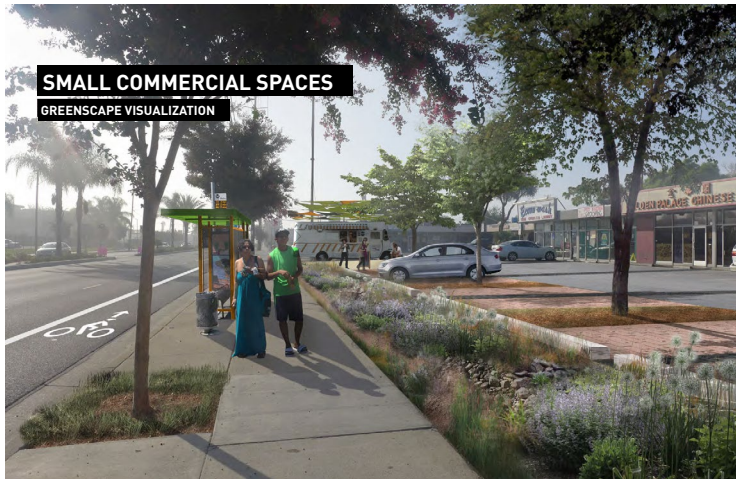
Community Garden

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Expanded Parks/Linear Parks/Open Space Access

G-7 SMALL COMMERCIAL SPACES

The New Community Hub



Benefits



CLIMATE



ECOLOGY



WATER



ECONOMY



AESTHETICS

Description

Our mini-malls are havens for small businesses, including many family and immigrant-owned “mom and pop” stores. Through the creative use of greening, these local commercial spaces can become community hubs, offering places for gathering and social interaction while bolstering the neighborhood economy.

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G-8 MULTI-FAMILY HOUSING

Built For People



Benefits



WATER



CLIMATE



ECOLOGY



AIR

Description

Where open space and yards are most scarce, thoughtful design of shared, paved spaces can become engaging places for play and neighborly interactions. Permeable paving, plants, community gardens, shade elements, and traffic calming features can transform long driveways and everyday lives.

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G-9 ARTERIAL STREETS

Green Streets, Cool Streets, Complete Streets, and Living Streets



Benefits



Description

Unlike our rivers of the past, which once flowed with life along tree-lined banks, our city streets carry water through dirty gutters to a maze of storm drains hidden from sight. Cities are beginning to recognize the potential for streets to cleanse and infiltrate stormwater. These 'Green Streets' improve walkability, bikeability, clean air, quality of life, and celebrate community identity.

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G-10 ALLEYS

From Grey Alleys to Green Alleys



Benefits



Description

Alleys throughout our cities can be reimagined as safe places to walk in the shade, recreate with neighbors, and enjoy a more natural environment. Green alleys are especially useful in neighborhoods where park space is limited and neighborhoods are densely packed.

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G-11 SPREADING GROUNDS

Hidden Potential



Benefits



AESTHETICS



HEALTH



EQUITY



RECREATION

Description

Opportunities for hiking and walking trails are not always obvious. Spreading grounds represent some of the greatest acreage of open space in our urban neighborhoods with the potential to serve thousands. By replacing fences with landscaped paths and pocket parks, we can open up spreading grounds to hiking, walking, and biking, reconnecting us to both the importance of local water conservation and the health benefits of being outdoors.

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