GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE CREATES A HEALTHIER BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Green infrastructure integrates nature-based solutions into the built environment in simple but meaningful ways. Green infrastructure can include **trees**, **rain gardens**, **native landscaping**, **green roofs** and **engineered bioretention elements**. These components can be used in combinations that are straightforward and easy to understand.

Altogether, nature-based solutions connect landscape and habitat, creating pathways for people and vehicles. They result in cleaner and more ecologically vibrant waterways, and a built environment that is healthier and more efficient.

The illustration below shows integrated green infrastructure solutions at a community scale. These concepts may be used at multiple scales, from large landscapes to individual commercial sites or residential lots.

GREEN ROOFS on commercial buildings save energy, absorb water and reduce urban heat islands.

STREET TREES are integral to complete streets. Trees make streets more walkable, provide shade and intercept and soak in rainwater. This creates cool cities that save energy.

RAIN GARDENS and native landscaping absorb stormwater runoff from rooftops and driveways.

NATIVE PLANTS have deeper root systems that help soil absorb and retain water. Using native plants reduces the need for lawn chemicals and irrigation.

STREAMSIDE CORRIDORS are home to well-used trails and beautiful natural areas. Planting stream buffers with trees or native plants — and removing invasive plants like shrub honeysuckle — cleans the air and water and creates valuable wildlife habitat.

BIORETENTION elements strategically located in parking lots reduce ecological impacts of runoff by collecting, storing and filtering stormwater.

COMPLETE STREETS accommodate all users, including pedestrians, cyclists and transit riders. Adding green infrastructure improves the streetscape, makes walking more enjoyable and enhances environmental quality.

PARKS are great places for recreation and social gatherings. Transforming mowed areas with strategically located native landscaping creates habitat for monarch butterflies, reduces mowing costs, absorbs rainwater, and reconnects residents with the region's natural history.

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