Green infrastructure refers to the strategically planned and managed networks of natural lands, such as forests and wetlands, working landscapes, and other open spaces that conserve or enhances ecosystem values and functions and provides associated benefits to human populations. These managed systems can redirect, store, and filter stormwater, reducing the flows to sewer systems and surface water.

As the use of green infrastructure is becoming more popular, many communities are struggling to implement traditionally engineered, expensive, and time-intensive strategies. Green infrastructure is a viable approach to build climate resilience for all communities, whether they are an urban metropolis or a small rural town.

The "Tactical Green Infrastructure" approach is born out of the need to respond quickly, cost-effectively, and inclusively to the climate crisis. It is a specialized design-build methodology used to identify, design, and construct expedited green infrastructure projects.

These small-scale projects convert both paved and existing underutilized green space into highly functional drought and flood-tolerant landscapes within a few months.

The highly-interactive design and implementation process often enlists the effort of volunteer personnel, procures donated construction materials, identifies potential project funding sources, and helps educate the general public on the basic principles of green infrastructure and sustainable stormwater management.

Funded by the National Recreation & Park Association’s Great Urban Parks Campaign
TACTICAL GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE
SIMPLE DESIGN WITH HUGE IMPACT

**SIMPLE**
Simple green infrastructure relies on a landscaped-based approach to manage stormwater with little or no reliance on traditional underground piped stormwater infrastructure.

**LOW-COST**
Low-cost green infrastructure minimizes the use of labor-intensive construction materials, limits the amount of site grading, works with native soil conditions, and often enlists volunteers for construction.

**HIGHLY-VISIBLE**
Highly-visible green infrastructure sites provide the maximum education and outreach benefit to the community.

**BEAUTIFUL**
Beautiful green infrastructure showcases how the landscape can be aesthetically pleasing in both wet and dry weather with little maintenance burden.

**INSPIRATIONAL**
Inspirational green infrastructure gives city agencies, businesses, and the general public ideas on how to transform underperforming spaces into highly functional stormwater gardens.

**QUICKLY-BUILT**
Quickly-built green infrastructure projects can show how we can make a widespread impact in a short amount of time and investment.
Morro Bay
The stormwater pocket park was constructed in an existing 1,500 square foot, underutilized parking lot along the Embarcadero, directly across from Morro Bay. Runoff from a public boat wash north of the site flowed into the storm drain and emptied into the bay.

Site Design
The Morro Bay Pocket Park project created a filtration system through a bioretention pond to filter out pollutants and help manage urban runoff from 100,000 square feet of commercial development and streetscape. The pocket park also features public benches, providing respite for visitors to the bayfront area, including senior citizens from the nearby Senior Center.

Community Engagement and Partners
The project was funded through a grant from the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) Great Urban Parks Campaign and is the result of collaborative efforts between the Local Government Commission, the City of Morro Bay, and community-based organizations including Adopt Morro Bay, Morro Bay in Bloom, and Morro Bay Senior Citizens, Inc. (Morro Bay Active Adults).
Elk Grove

The Elk Grove Nature Park will use green infrastructure approaches to manage stormwater runoff, provide wildlife habitat, promote environmental awareness, and contribute to the community's overall wellbeing.

Site Design

The conceptual design creates an accessible and inclusive Nature Park for community members of all physical and cognitive abilities while also promoting environmental and social resilience. Among the proposed improvements are rain gardens and stormwater swales designed to capture runoff from adjacent impervious areas. The design also includes a new Nature Center building that will provide education, training, and community events, as well as urban agricultural gardens to serve both children and adults with disabilities.

Community Engagement and Partners

This project results from a collaborative effort between Cosumnes Community Services District, Local Government Commission, and Urban Rain Design. Project funding comes in part from the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD), and Proposition 68. Over 120 community members have provided feedback on the conceptual plan and what they want to see in the future nature park.
Woodland

The Woodland Crawford Park Stormwater Retrofit project will create a 1,500 square foot rain garden, located in the William Crawford Senior Park. The main purpose of the project is to capture stormwater runoff from El Dorado Drive.

Site Design

Notable improvements include drought-tolerant planting demonstration areas; new park trees; a new concrete sidewalk, curb, and gutter; and a covered stormwater channel.

Community Engagement and Partners

This project is a collaborative effort between the Local Government Commission, the City of Woodland, Woodland Sustainability Advisory Committee, Atlas LAB, and UC Davis Student Leadership in Green Infrastructure. Funding was provided in part by the National Recreation and Park Association.
A sustainable and effective recovery must include climate action and environmental protection as pillars. There’s a link between climate change, and environmental degradation, and habitat loss, resulting from human activities.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has developed a set of principles for a healthy and green recovery, highlighting the protection and preservation of nature, the need to invest in water, and the importance of building healthy, liveable cities.

Green infrastructure has been proposed as an effective approach for a green recovery post-Covid 19 by the United Nations. The implementation of green infrastructure projects can help to revitalize our communities, offering a wide range of ecosystem services such as water filtration and retention, flood management, urban heat alleviation, air quality improvement, reduced energy use, space for recreation, and climate mitigation and adaptation. Green infrastructure approaches improve environmental conditions, ensuring resilient communities and enhancing the health and quality of life of our communities.