# WHAT IS BLUE-GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE?

URBAN WATER MANAGERS HAVE TRADITIONALLY RELIED SOLELY ON GREY INFRASTRUCTURE TO MITIGATE RISKS. THIS POSES ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS. TO BUILD RESILIENCE FASTER, WE MUST DEVELOP STRONGER SOLUTIONS. HERE'S WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT BLUE-GREEN CITIES.

#### GREY INFRASTRUCTURE

Traditionally, cities rely on grey infrastructure to remove stormwater from sites as fast as possible. These drainage systems are usually part of a combined system that manages both stormwater and wastewater.





## FLOODING AND WATER QUALITY

Combined systems are overwhelmed easily during storms, increasing flooding risks, while combined sewer overflows expose people to pathogens while toxins impact aquatic life.

#### **BLUE-GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE**

Cities turn to blue-green infrastructure to manage water quantity and water quality. Blue-green infrastructure ranges in size from rain gardens to green streets to manage excess water and improve water quality.





#### MULTI-FUNCTIONAL

Blue-green infrastructure can perform several functions and provide several benefits on the same spatial area. For example, a green wall can reduce stormwater runoff, improve water quality and provide a habitat for species.

### MULTIPLE CO-BENEFITS

Blue-green infrastructure provides multiple environmental, economic, and social co-benefits for urban communities, including enhanced biodiversity, resilience to climate change, green jobs and spaces for social activities.



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