



Green Infrastructure & Stormwater Management CASE STUDY

Performing and Visual Arts Corridor at the University of Georgia

Location: University of Georgia, Athens, GA

Client: the University of Georgia

Design Firm(s): Ecos Environmental Design, Inc. / Koons Environmental Design / Office of University Architects

Landscape architect/Project contact: Ben Liverman / Kevin Kirsche / Alfie Vick, ASLA

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ASLA Chapter: Georgia



Photo: Ecos Environmental Design, Inc.

Project Specifications

Project Description: The goals of this project include:

- Transform large area of surface parking lots into a green corridor to tie together Music, Museum, Art, and Performance Hall facilities.
- Reduce runoff volume and improve water quality discharging to Lilly Branch and the Oconnee River.

- Expose stormwater best management practices by decorative use of runnels, bioretention gardens, and swales.
- Collect and reuse stormwater by installing cisterns which charge irrigation.
- Restore native habitat by reforesting large areas of the floodplain and piedmont forest.
- Total site transformed from surface lots to green space = 8.5 acres.

Project Type:

Institutional/education

Part of a redevelopment project

Design features: Bioretention facility, rain garden, bioswale, green roof, cistern, exposed runnels, native landscape restoration, canopy restoration, and major impervious surface reduction.

This project was designed to meet the following specific requirements or mandates:

State statute, county ordinance

Impervious area managed: greater than 5 acres

Amount of existing green space/open space conserved or preserved for managing stormwater on site: greater than 5 acres

The regulatory environment and regulator was supportive of the project.

Did the client request that other factors be considered, such as energy savings, usable green space, or property value enhancements? Yes, usable green space, high visibility for stormwater quality controls, sites for art installation, and habitat restoration.

Cost & Jobs Analysis

Estimated Cost of Stormwater Project: \$500,000-\$1,000,000 (Public funding: State)

Related Information: \$50,000 for Green Roof, \$80,000 for Art School Cistern, \$672,000 landscape / irrigation (tied to cisterns) / bioretention / piping / labor

Was a green vs. grey cost analysis performed? No.

Cost impact of conserving green/open space to the overall costs of the site design/development project: No additional cost.

Cost impact of conserving green/open space for stormwater management over traditional site design/site development approaches (grey infrastructure)? Did not influence costs.

Number of jobs created: 40

Job hours devoted to project:

Planning and Design: 150

Construction: 11 months

Annual Maintenance: weekly maintenance

Other:

Performance Measures**Stormwater reduction performance analysis:**

Retention of 35,000 gallons at Art School cistern, retention of 60,000 gallons at Museum cistern retain, and cleanse first flush (1.2" rainfall) as required by county ordinance.

Community & economic benefits that have resulted from the project: Restoration of 8.5 acres of former surface parking into green corridor of connected quads and forested spaces. Enhanced environment for students / staff of performing arts corridor. Improved water quality into the Oconne River (a 303d listed river). Provided chances for students/staff/visitors to engage Lilly Branch and the native floodplain ecosystem. Chances for students to learn about and experience green infrastructure.

Project Recognition

2010 ASLA chapter merit award for excellent ecological design; 2008 Stormwater Steward Award from Athens Clarke County

Additional Information

Links to images: http://www.ecosdesign.com/portfolio/index.php?project_id=26



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