



# Green Infrastructure & Stormwater Management CASE STUDY

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## PSU Urban Center Plaza Stormwater Retrofit

**Location:** Portland, OR

**Client:** Portland State University

**Design Firm(s):** Nevue Ngan Associates; Merryman Barnes Architects; Sisul Engineering

**Landscape architect/Project contact:** Kevin Robert Perry, ASLA

**Email:** [kevin@nevuengan.com](mailto:kevin@nevuengan.com)

**ASLA Chapter:** Oregon



Photo: Kevin Robert Perry, ASLA

### Project Specifications

**Project Description:** Completed in 2010 on the Portland State University campus, the Urban Center Plaza stormwater retrofit seamlessly integrated a series of landscaped stormwater planters within the plaza's existing hardscape and water fountains. As an integral component of the SW Montgomery Green Street Concept Plan, the Urban Center Plaza's stormwater planters help reinforce the plan's "stormwater spine" without compromising the programming of the existing plaza space. Approximately 8,000 sq/ft of runoff is captured from the plaza surface as

well as adjacent sidewalk zones and is conveyed to the landscape areas through a series of trench drains. Stormwater cascades downhill from planter to planter through a series of metal weirs and granite rills. Once void of plant material, the Urban Center Plaza is now a balance of hardscape, landscape, and water that lends itself as a premier space within Portland State University.

**Project Type:**

Institutional/education

A retrofit of an existing property

**Design features:** Flow-through planters.**This project was designed to meet the following specific requirements or mandates:**

Developer/client preference

**Impervious area managed:** 5,000 sq/ft to 1 acre**Amount of existing green space/open space conserved or preserved for managing stormwater on site:** Less than 5,000 sq/ft**The regulatory environment and regulator was** supportive of the project.**Cost & Jobs Analysis****Estimated Cost of Stormwater Project:** \$100,000-\$500,000 (Public funding: Local)**Was a green vs. grey cost analysis performed?** No**Number of jobs created:** Not available**Job hours devoted to project:** Not available

Planning and Design: Not available

Construction: Not available

Annual Maintenance: Not available

**Performance Measures****Stormwater reduction performance analysis:**

Due to underground structures, this project uses flow-through planters that do not allow for infiltration of stormwater. However, the planter systems are estimated to reduce stormwater flow by at least 50% and they provide good water quality benefits.

**Community & economic benefits that have resulted from the project:** Introducing landscape space within the Urban Center Plaza has been a tremendous aesthetic asset to the

space and has increased the perceived value of the space.

### Additional Information

**Links to images:** Pictures can be available by contacting Kevin Robert Perry at 503-239-0600 or email at kevin@nevuengan.com

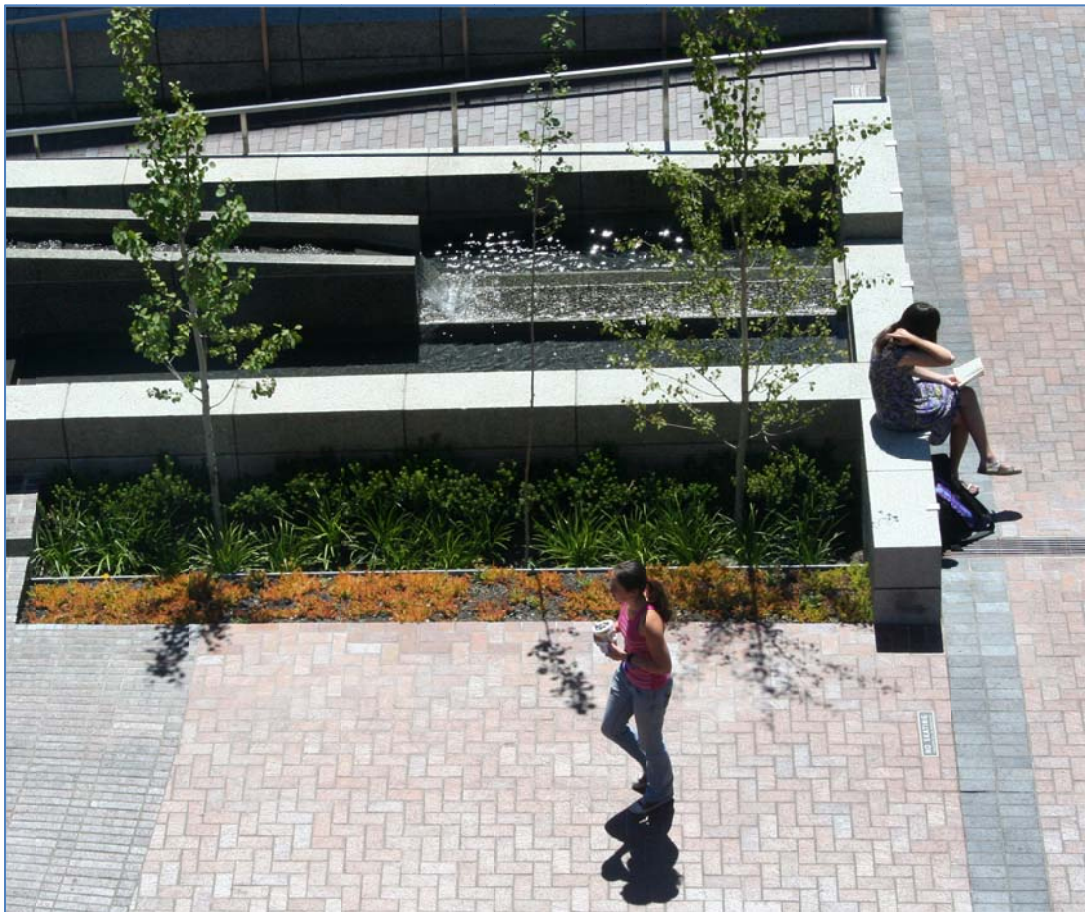


Photo: Kevin Robert Perry, ASLA