



# Green Infrastructure & Stormwater Management CASE STUDY

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## 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](http://www.ecosdesign.com/portfolio/index.php?project_id=26)



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