Green infrastructure provides demonstrable benefits. Trees and green infrastructure cool the city, save energy, clean rainwater, improve air quality, make streets more walkable, improve habitat, and sequester carbon. Environmental restoration and conservation strategies also hold powerful potential to revitalize neighborhoods, improve public health, and spur economic development.

Opportunities abound to enhance quality of life and increase ecological value by integrating green infrastructure into parks. For instance, a park could include a butterfly meadow filled with native plants; a rain garden or bioretention feature to clean and absorb stormwater; and ecologically vital streamside corridors to encourage recreational activity.

Parks are immensely valuable to communities as they provide a platform for the building of relationships among residents through recreational usage. The addition of green infrastructure in parks will not only make recreational activities more fulfilling and enjoyable but will also help to conserve the health of the environment.

Native plants and trees planted along the streamside act as a buffer that improves water quality, increases biodiversity of wildlife and makes walking trails more attractive, which encourages recreational use by community members. What’s more, the beautification and ecological restoration of streamside corridors foster a sense of stewardship and connectedness to local natural heritage. To maintain stream buffer health, it is important to remove invasive plants like shrub honeysuckle that make it difficult for native plants to thrive.