

Presentation by

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Green Infrastructure for Urban Living

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“Show me a healthy community with a healthy economy and I will show you a community that has its **green infrastructure** in order and understands the relationship between the built and the unbuilt environment.”

Will Rogers, Trust for Public Land



What is Urban Green Infrastructure ?

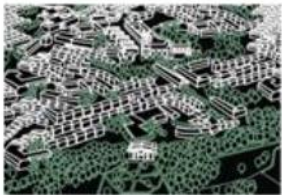
- **GI favours a more sustainable and resource efficient development process** by encouraging the use of limited space in a coherent, smart and integrated way.
- **GI comprises a wide range of environmental features that** operate at different scales and form part of an interconnected ecological network.
- **GI is designed to maintain and enhance the delivery of benefits to human society** in the form of food, materials, clean water, clean air, climate regulation, flood prevention, pollination, and recreation among others.



Green Infrastructure Scales...

Neighbourhood Scale

A network of local green spaces addresses many user needs especially in light of urban densification, demographic changes, social inclusion; and helps to move towards a low carbon economy



Street Trees / Home Zones

Local Rights of Way

Roof Gardens & Green
Roofs

Dedicated Gardens /
Cemeteries

Pocket Parks

Institutional Open Spaces

Gardens

Ponds & Small Woodlands

Urban Plazas

Play Areas

Village Greens

Local Nature Reserves

Town / City Scale

District scale green infrastructure contributes to an area's distinctiveness and biodiversity, allowing a wide range of user groups to share the same space.



City Parks

Country Parks / Estates

Urban Canals & Waterways

Continuous waterfront

Green Networks

Municipal / Cathedral
Plazas

Multi-user routes

Lakes

Urban Commons

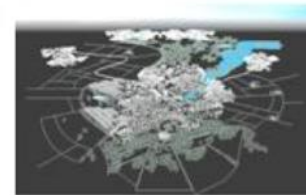
Major recreational spaces

Forest Parks

Landmarks & Vistas &
Gateways

City Regional Scale

Including major sites and landscape tracts, as well as smaller interconnected neighbourhood and district assets, this scale of green infrastructure provision can deliver multiple ecosystem services and public benefits, such as biodiversity, landscape enhancement, recreation, health and climate change adaptation



Regional Parks

Rivers & floodplains

Shoreline & Waterfront

Strategic & Long-distance Trails

Major (>100ha?) woodlands

Community Forests

Open Access Sites

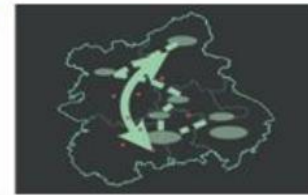
Landmarks & Vistas

Reservoirs

Environmental Management
Initiatives

Strategic Corridors & Gateways

Strategic Scale



Regional Environmental
Frameworks for Biodiversity,
Landscape, Heritage

Strategic River Catchment Plans

National Trails & Destinations

Strategic Infrastructure Corridors

Behavioural & Societal Change

Green infrastructure in the city

- At the city level, the EEA proposes two indicators to characterise GI:
 - share of green urban areas
 - such as parks, public and private gardens, and even trees lining streets can facilitate climate change adaptation and mitigation, improve health and quality of life, and may favour biodiversity conservation.
 - distribution of green urban areas.



Green Infrastructure for urban living

- Climate Change
 - Help reduce ambient heat and flooding
 - Reduce air temperature
 - Vegetation removes carbon dioxide from air, improve air quality
 - Better quality of environment, help walking/cycling
 - Help diversities of species



Green Infrastructure for urban living

- Health and Well-being
 - Health inequalities
 - Increased life expectancy and reduced health inequality.
 - Improvements in levels of physical activity and health.
 - Psychological health and mental well-being



Green Infrastructure for urban living

- Economic growth and investments
 - Inward investment and job creation
 - Land and property values
 - Local economic regeneration



Green Infrastructure for urban living

- Land Regeneration and reclamation
 - Regeneration of previously developed land
 - Increased environmental and aesthetic quality
 - Improvements in quality of place.



Green Infrastructure for urban living

- Stronger Communities
 - Green space and social interaction
 - Social inclusion and community cohesion

Case examples: Bow Creek Ecology Park were created by London Docklands Development Corporation (LDDC) on brownfield sites in London.



Summary

- Green infrastructure: maximising the delivery of multiple benefits
- With care given to planning, management and community involvement at the landscape, community and individual site levels, the benefits of green space can become additive and even synergistic
- Creating and managing green infrastructure in this way comes at long-term financial and managerial costs.

