# Stormwater Management: One Tree at a Time





#### DO TREES MANAGE STORMWATER?





ALL AL



3 Ways Trees Manage Stormwater

- 1. Interception
- 2. Evapotranspiration
- 3. Infiltration





### Challenges in Urban Areas

C G ORGETOWAT







Uncompacted soil is key

- 1. To grow large trees
- 2. For bioretention
- 3. Difficult to achieve in dense urban areas













#### Suspended Pavement: Bay Area



Castro Valley Blvd – Silva Cell

Sunnyvale – Silva Cell

Menlo Park – Silva Cell





#### Case Study: NCSU

Field Monitoring of Two Silva Cell Installations in Wilmington, NC: Final Report J.L. Page, R.J. Winston, W.F. Hunt III January 27, 2014













#### Case Study: NCSU

#### Stormwater Routing Cross Section

A - New catch basin with sump along curb line at upslope end of system





Santa Clara Valley Urban Runoff Pollution Prevention Program

#### NCSU: Learning

Silva Cell systems performed better or about the same as the mean for bioretention systems in peer reviewed literature for TSS and heavy metals.

Unlike some bioretention systems, which leach nutrients, these 2 tree/soil/Silva Cell systems also provided nutrient removal.

Maintenance to remove trash, sediment, and leaf litter from the inlet catch basins to the Silva Cell systems is crucial to prevent bypass. Inlet catch basins at these sites were cleaned every 2 months.







#### Suspended pavement for bioretention

- 1. Increased Tree Canopy Coverage
- 2. No net loss of useable real estate
- 3. Scalable implementation







#### **Trees and Bioretention**









# Challenges/Opportunities

- Drought Challenges
- Maintenance Issues
- Underground bioretention
- Biotreatment Soil Specification
- Tree Species for Stormwater Treatment
- Treatment Train and hybrid designs
- Example of Larger scale implementation
- Green Jobs!





#### **Drought Challenges**

- Evaporation vs. Irrigation
- Water Retention vs. Mosquito breeding
- BMP Sizing vs. Soil Volume
- BSM consistency vs. Tree Health



#### Green Bulb-out



Campbell





#### Flow-Thru Planter







Alameda

#### Road Diet: Colma - Before



Before: two travel lanes in each direction, no parking and no cross-walks





#### Road Diet: Colma, After





After: new bike and parking lanes & green bulb-outs with cross walk.



### Retrofit Example Berkeley, Before



Before: City park area - low use with high maintenance





### Retrofit Example Berkeley, After





After: re-graded area with new rain garden treating street run-off



#### Emeryville: Case Study







#### Emeryville: 64<sup>th</sup> Street







# Emeryville: 64<sup>th</sup> Street









#### Starting with the Tree



- 1,200 cubic feet of soil volume for a large tree
- 4 feet deep planting soil in strip and under sidewalk (with silva cell or other sps product)
- 30 feet tree spacing, 30'x10' or 300 square feet available for surface area per tree
- 300 square feet x 25 (4% rule) = 7,500 sq.ft. catchment area
- Roughly 4 trees needed per block (2 each side)





#### Retrofit with suspended paving

- 400 Foot long Block
- 50 Feet curb to curb
- Street Trees 30 feet on center
- Storm drains at intersections and centerline
- 10 feet from curb to property line
  - 6 foot sidewalk
  - 4 foot planter strip





### Typical City Street – 400' x 50'

#### 400' total length of block







#### **Suspended Pavement Treatment Watersheds**

400' total length of block



Four unique drainage areas





#### Four Unique Drainage Areas

#### 400' total length of block







#### Suspended Pavement/Treatment Areas

400' total length of block

Each of the treatment areas contains 1,200cf of soil for stormwater treatment and tree growth/support.







#### **Section Detail**



#### SILVA CELL WITH RAINGARDEN AND PERMEABLE PAVERS

NOT TO SCALE









#### Cost Analysis

- \$10K per tree installed
- \$5-10 million per square mile
- Could be spread out over 20 years plus
- Green Jobs!

Caveats:

- Flat streets (center crown)
- Minimal utility conflicts
- 10 feet available from curb to property line
- Stormwater system nearby







#### **Contact information**

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