

WHAT ROLES CAN OPEN SPACE PLAY?

The Challenge

Providing community amenities and mitigating environmental impacts

Smarter land use planning reduces negative impacts on water quality and provides better access to open spaces

Source: U.S. EPA, 2005



MANAGING STORMWATER. Runoff from urban development can impact water quality and increase the burden on stormwater infrastructure. Designing open space to retain and filter runoff can meet these challenges while providing important community amenities.



PROVIDING RECREATION AND COMMUNITY OPEN SPACE. Access to parks and open space is an important part of maintaining a healthy community. Kids and adults alike are more likely to exercise and walk when provided safe and easy access to parks and trails.

Source: Trust for Public Land, 2005



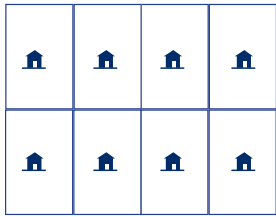
PROTECTING VALUABLE HABITAT. Well-designed open space corridors can provide protection for wildlife habitat.

Functional Open Space

GREENING LAND USES AND INFRASTRUCTURE.

Impervious surfaces disrupt the natural absorption of rain into the ground, instead generating runoff that collects pollution. More compact land use patterns can reduce the amount of impervious cover per household, thereby minimizing runoff and related water quality issues.

1 home per acre



Impervious Cover = 20%
Total Runoff = 149,600 ft³/yr
Runoff/home = 18,700 ft³/yr

4 homes per acre



Impervious Cover = 38%
Total Runoff = 49,600 ft³/yr
Runoff/home = 6,200 ft³/yr

8 homes per acre



Impervious Cover = 65%
Total Runoff = 39,600 ft³/yr
Runoff/home = 4,950 ft³/yr

Adapted from U.S. EPA, Stormwater Best Management Practices, 2005

With green infrastructure elements—such as open spaces that detain water, and bioswales that filter street runoff—a stormwater system can reduce impacts on water quality and ease pressures on regional stormwater infrastructure.

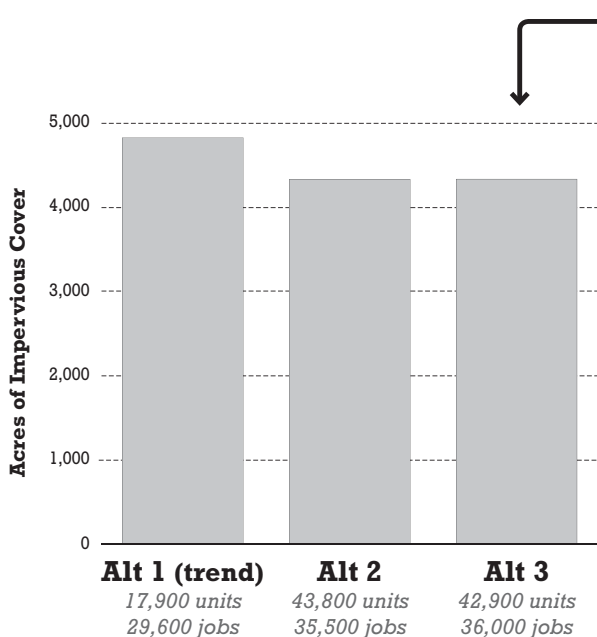


ACTIVE BY DESIGN. Recent studies have found that people who live close to parks engage in higher levels of physical activity than those who do not. A U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) study found that creation of or enhanced access to places for physical activity led to a 26% increase in the percentage of people exercising on three or more days per week.

Other studies have shown that people who live in neighborhoods with a mix of shops and businesses within easy walking distance have a 35% lower risk of obesity.

Source: Trust for Public Land, 2005 and Active Living Network, 2008

How can SEGA help?



Total Acres of Impervious Cover
Clustering development in Alternatives 2 and 3 reduces the amount of impervious cover within the SEGA and helps decrease the stormwater burden on regional facilities.

Open Space Acreage per 1,000 People
Alternatives 2 and 3 provide more parks and open space than Alternative 1. They include open space corridors, neighborhood parks, community gardens, and small-scale farming operations, as well as shared school and stormwater facilities.

