Environmental Benefits
of Green Infrastructure in Parks

Human health is intricately linked to the health of the surrounding environment. Improvements to the natural world are one of the main ways that green infrastructure features benefit surrounding communities.

What's the "urban heat island" effect?
Urban spaces that lack tree cover and greenery can create hot spots in cities up to ten degrees warmer than surrounding areas. The increased heat is dangerous for vulnerable populations such as children and the elderly. Most urban heat islands are concentrated in low-income neighborhoods.[1]

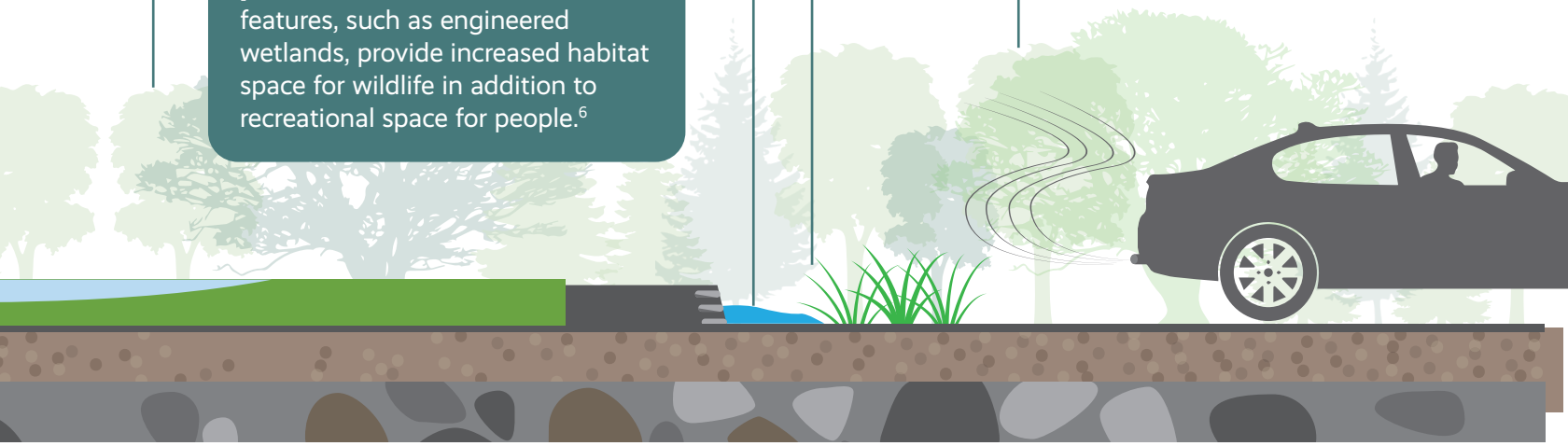
Cooler Air
Trees help mitigate the urban heat island effect, lowering ground temperatures to make spaces more comfortable and safe for at-risk populations.[2]

Reduced Flooding
Green infrastructure features such as rain gardens can decrease the likelihood of localized flooding, protecting sports fields and other assets from water damage.[3]

Cleaner Water
Almost all green infrastructure features can filter out harmful pollutants such as heavy metals and fertilizers, keeping these hazardous chemicals out of our waterways.[4]

Healthier Air
Green infrastructure elements such as permeable pavement and trees help reduce pollutants in the air, making it safer to breath and recreate.[5]

Green infrastructure is good for plants and animals, too! Certain features, such as engineered wetlands, provide increased habitat space for wildlife in addition to recreational space for people.[6]



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