



# GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE, PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY

Green infrastructure consists of a wide variety of natural features that, when integrated within an urban environment, provide valuable ecosystem services to the community. In Citrus Heights, green infrastructure includes the urban forest, natural stormwater-absorbing landscapes, and community gardens. Green infrastructure benefits the City by reducing urban heat island effects, reducing building energy use, improving stormwater and waste management, and public health. The measures contained within this strategy describe green infrastructure improvements capable of reducing GHG emissions or removing and storing carbon from the atmosphere by physical and biological processes such as plant photosynthesis (a process known as *carbon sequestration*).

The City recognizes trees as a valuable asset. Trees beautify neighborhoods, increase property values, reduce noise and air pollution, keep buildings cool in the summer, create privacy, and establish habitat for bird species. Importantly, the urban forest also captures and stores carbon as the trees grow.

Community gardens are plots of land that offer residents a place to grow food, flowers and other crops. The gardens increase residents' access to fresh produce, preserve urban green space, promote intergenerational and intercultural interaction, and provide an alternative form of recreation. The City of Citrus Heights has one community garden, located at Sylvan Road and Stock Ranch Road. Many additional potential community garden sites exist within the City.



**Measure 7-1.A:** Enhance the City's urban forest and other green infrastructure to reduce building energy use, improve comfort, augment neighborhood aesthetics, improve stormwater quality, and maximize carbon capture and storage.

The City will work to expand the community's green infrastructure through targeted investment, development of public/private partnerships, and outreach programs. In addition to reducing greenhouse gases and capturing and storing carbon, expanding the City's urban forest will produce a wide range of community benefits and improve residents' quality of life.

The City will develop an urban forestry program to establish design, planting and maintenance guidelines for trees located on public property and coordinate implementation among City departments.

To achieve the estimated GHG reductions, 1,500 new trees should be planted on public and private property within the community between 2010 and 2020. The City will set a goal to plant 150 new trees per year during this 10-year timeframe. Outreach to property owners and neighborhood organizations and partnerships with non-profits will be important components in achieving this target.

**GHG Reduction Potential:**

*110 MT CO<sub>2</sub>e/ yr  
(building energy savings)*

*630 MT CO<sub>2</sub>e/ yr  
(carbon capture and storage)*

**Community Benefits:**

*Improved public spaces,  
lower energy bills,  
improved air quality*

**Cost to City**

*Low – Medium*

**Cost to resident/  
business owner**

*Low – Medium*

**Savings to resident/  
business owner**

*Very Low*



Mature shade trees in neighborhoods enhance community character.

**Did you know?  
COOL FACT**

One tree can reduce energy consumption by around 200 kilowatthours per year for a home located in California's Central Valley. If 1,000 households planted shade trees, the energy savings would reduce about 84 metric tons of GHGs per year, the equivalent of taking 70 cars off the road.  
- Center for Urban Forest Research

Actions	Implementation Target	Responsible Party
A. Conduct a public tree inventory and canopy coverage analysis to determine best opportunities to improve the urban forest.	Before June 30, 2012	General Services; Sunrise Recreation and Park District
B. Develop an Urban Forest Management Plan.	Before December 31, 2014	General Services; Community and Economic Development
C. Develop an outreach program to provide community information about the benefits of urban forestry and other green infrastructure.	Before December 31, 2011	Community and Economic Development; Sunrise Recreation and Park District
D. Partner with local businesses, non-profit groups and agencies (e.g., SMUD's Shade Tree Program) to provide incentives to plant trees and install green roofs on private property.	Ongoing through 2020	Community and Economic Development
E. Create a specific fund for urban forest and green infrastructure public improvements within the capital improvement plan.	Before December 31, 2012	General Services
F. Consider undergrounding utility lines in areas where utility lines inhibit street tree growth.	Ongoing	General Services

*Related General Plan policies: Policy 7.3, Policy 34.2, Policy 36.1, Policy 36.2, Policy 60.1*



Measure 7-2.A: Expand the community garden program to increase local food security and provide local recreation opportunities.

The City will work to increase the number of community gardens available to residents. Successful community gardens require defined management policies and high levels of community engagement.

The City of Citrus Heights has one community garden within its limits, located at Sylvan Road and Stock Ranch Road. The City encourages identification of additional potential sites for community gardens. Priority will be given to locations near residential areas with interest in urban food production. Both public and vacant private land offered by willing landowners will be considered for garden development.

The City will identify and remove zoning barriers preventing additional community gardens or farmers markets.

**GHG Reduction Potential:**

*Supporting measure*

**Community Benefits:**

*Increased recreation choices, better access to local food, improved public health*

**Cost to City**

*Very Low*

**Cost to resident/  
business owner**

*NA*

**Savings to resident/  
business owner**

*NA*



A community garden can grow flowers, vegetables or community.

**Did you know?**  
**COOL FACT**

Based on a study done by California Healthy Cities, a school in West Hollywood demonstrated a 6% increase in physical activity and 10% increase in consumption of fruits and vegetables per day among 338 participants in the school's community gardening program.

<b>Actions</b>	<b>Implementation Target</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>
A. Conduct an audit of existing codes to identify and remove any barriers to developing or operating community gardens.	Before June 30, 2012	Community and Economic Development
B. Promote community involvement in the existing Sylvan Road community garden and determine public interest regarding future community gardens.	Ongoing	Community and Economic Development; Sunrise Recreation and Park District
C. Consider support of community gardens and farmers markets along with necessary infrastructure and management policies.	Ongoing through 2020	Community and Economic Development; General Services; Sunrise Recreation and Park District

*Related General Plan policies: Policy 45.1, Policy 47.1, Policy 60.2*

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