NLC NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES

CITIES STRONG TOGETHER

Cities Leading the Way on Nature-Based Solutions

Thursday, May 23, 2024
National League of Cities

Peyton Siler Jones (she/her)

Interim Director of Sustainability & Urban Innovation

National League of Cities, Center for Municipal Practice

What are nature-based climate solutions?

Nature-based climate solutions at the municipal scale.

Land conservation and management

Prevention of future degradation.

Emissions reductions

Drawing down carbon as an ecosystem service.

Prepare

Leveraging nature as a tool for climate impacts.

Social equity and justice at the core.

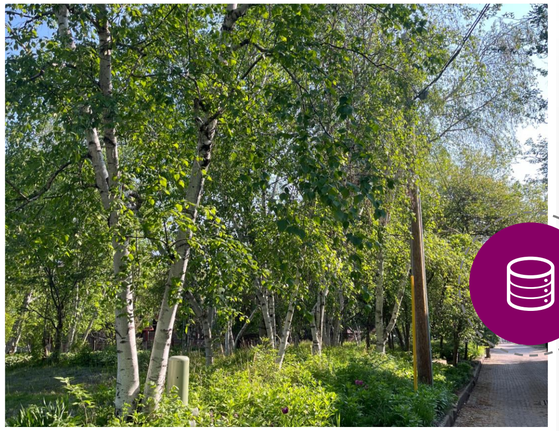
- Equitable distribution of ecosystem services.
- Equity based economic opportunities.
- Looking systematically at the whole.

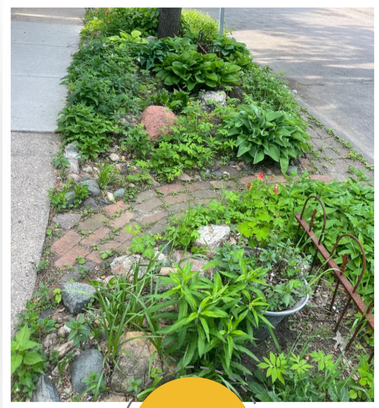
Case Studies

St. Paul, MN

No Mow May

City of St. Paul's No Mow May policy, which the City Council passed last year in a 6-0 resolution, allows native wildflowers, grasses, vines, and shrubs to flower and take root which supports pollinators like bees and promotes urban soil health.





NLC

Benton Harbor, Michigan

Population: 8,843 (2022)

- NOAA's Office of Habitat Conservation BIL and IRA fundings to revitalize Ox Creek.
- Majority Black city, per capital income of $15,629, Most Benton Harbor residents are out of the workforce, with the majority being 18 or younger, older than 65, or on some form of disability.
- Creek as catalytic project for broad revitalization.

City of Mobile, Alabama

Population: 183,289 (2022)

- National Park Service Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership (ORLP) program BIL funding.
- Upgraded a degraded urban stormwater conveyance into an asset and recreational destination with a fitness parcourse, benches, and open green space.

South Sioux City, Nebraska

Population: 13,706 (2022)

- USDA Urban and Community Forestry Grant
- Activities will include planting and establishing trees in neighborhoods across the city; removing dead, diseased, or structurally unsound trees; updating the city's tree inventory as part of its Community Forest Management plan; and educating the community on the importance of trees.

Networks of support & peer learning

- NLC’s Programming including the Smart Surfaces Program and the Greening Schoolyards Initiative.
- Many networks supporting city leadership on climate action, including nature-based climate solutions.
- NLC staff is always happy to connect leaders with the right organization to meet their specific needs. Reach out!

Thank You