

A POSITIVE RIPPLE EFFECT

Advantages of Green vs. Gray

ECONOMIC BENEFITS



It is a demonstrably more cost-effective solution for Peoria.

City engineers estimate that the installation of green infrastructure versus gray (tunnels, tanks, etc.) would be about 2/3 the cost.



It can extend the useful life of existing infrastructure.

By keeping more water out of the system and soaking it into the ground, not as much demand is put on existing drains and pipes.



It would enable Peoria to involve local businesses—including diverse-owned engineers and contractors—in planning, design, construction, hauling and labor.

Gray infrastructure solutions on the magnitude that Peoria might otherwise have to explore—such as massive tunnels to convey combined sanitary and storm sewer overflows, like Chicago’s “Deep Tunnel” project—involve out-of-state or even foreign companies.



QUALITY OF LIFE



It would not only slash CSOs, but also beautify streetscapes and public areas in many older neighborhoods.

This can also be a factor in increasing property values. City engineers initially estimate 1/3 of streets or alleys in the CSO area would be redone. (Meanwhile, a gray solution like a massive tunnel is out of sight.)



Studies demonstrate that well-maintained green space plays a role in reducing crime and violence.

A review of 2,813 single-family homes in Portland, Ore., found that trees in lots and public rights-of-way decreased the occurrence of crime. Green space increases visibility, reduces aggressive behavior and creates a sense of socialization—with opportunities for local citizens to be involved in keeping it clean and healthy.



It complements ongoing efforts to transform Peoria’s Downtown, Warehouse District and other older neighborhoods.

This would be a powerful demonstration that City leaders care as much about regenerating our core city as private investors, developers and companies do.



It could make Peoria a destination city for green innovation, similar to Chicago.

It could also generate myriad positive public relations opportunities.



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Given the multiple environmental, economic and social benefits associated with green infrastructure, EPA has supported and encouraged the implementation of green infrastructure for stormwater runoff and sewer overflow management to the maximum extent possible.”

— U.S. EPA, “Greening CSO Plans: Planning and Modeling Green Infrastructure for Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Control,” March 2014: http://water.epa.gov/infrastructure/greeninfrastructure/upload/Greening_CSOP_lans.PDF