

Resident Empowerment Training

Empowering Community Voices for Blue-Green Infrastructure in the Chollas Creek Watershed
May 22, 2025



Agenda

2:30 - 2:50 PM

2:50 - 3:10 PM

3:10 - 3:30 PM

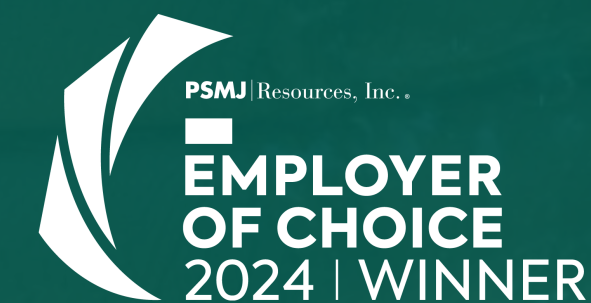
Introduction

Resident Fellows

Q&A

NICE TO MEET YOU

Greenprint Partners is an award-winning consulting firm specializing in community-centered environmental infrastructure.



NICE TO MEET YOU

The Groundwork Network is a national network of community-centered nonprofits working at the intersection of people, places and systems to build healthier, more resilient neighborhoods.



GROUNDWORK
San Diego Chollas Creek

NICE TO MEET YOU



GROUNDWORK

San Diego Chollas Creek

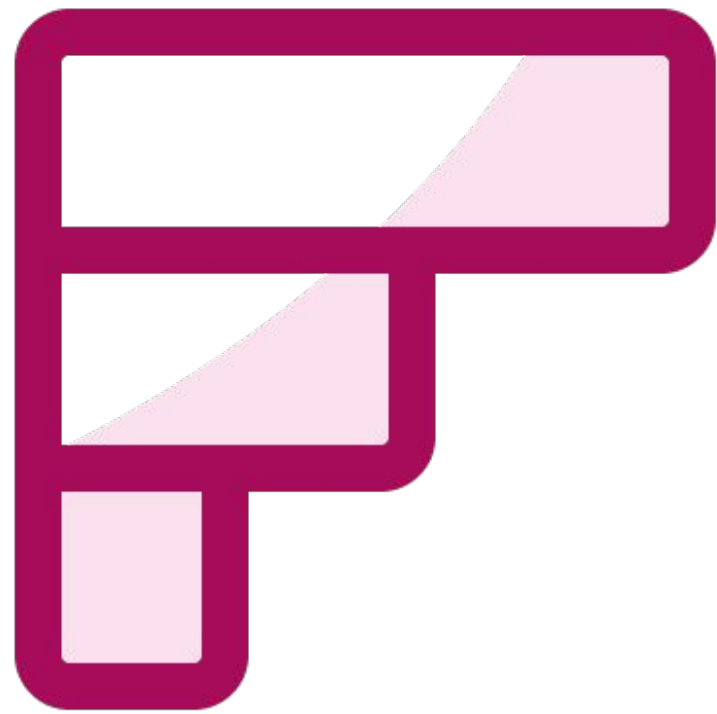


To what extent have you worked with community leaders on infrastructure projects?



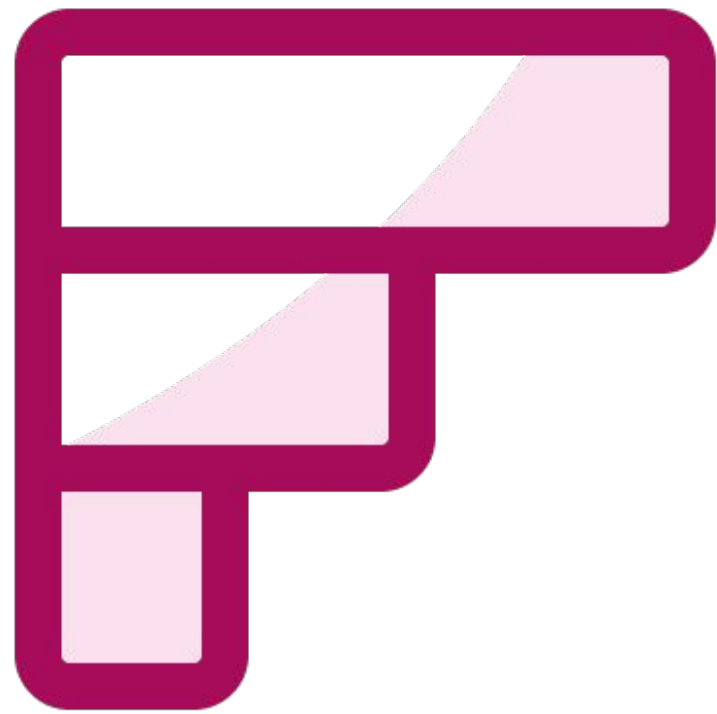


To what extent did working with community leaders facilitate project implementation?



What do you see as the greatest challenges in engaging communities effectively? (Please rank your answers in order of importance with 1 being the greatest challenge and 5 being the least.)



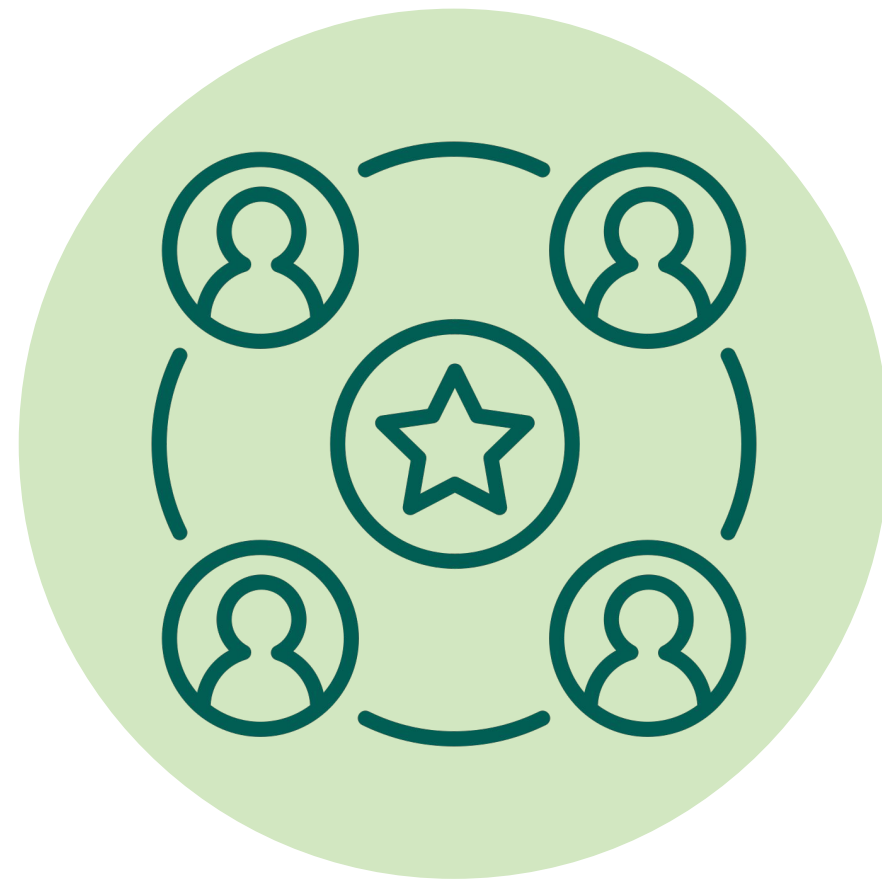


**Where do you see the greatest potential benefit from engaging community members in infrastructure projects?
(Please rank your answers in order of importance with 1 being the greatest benefit and 5 being the least.)**

Context

Resident Empowerment Training

Purpose



To build capacity of 20 emerging community leaders to lead on **blue-green infrastructure** for their watershed



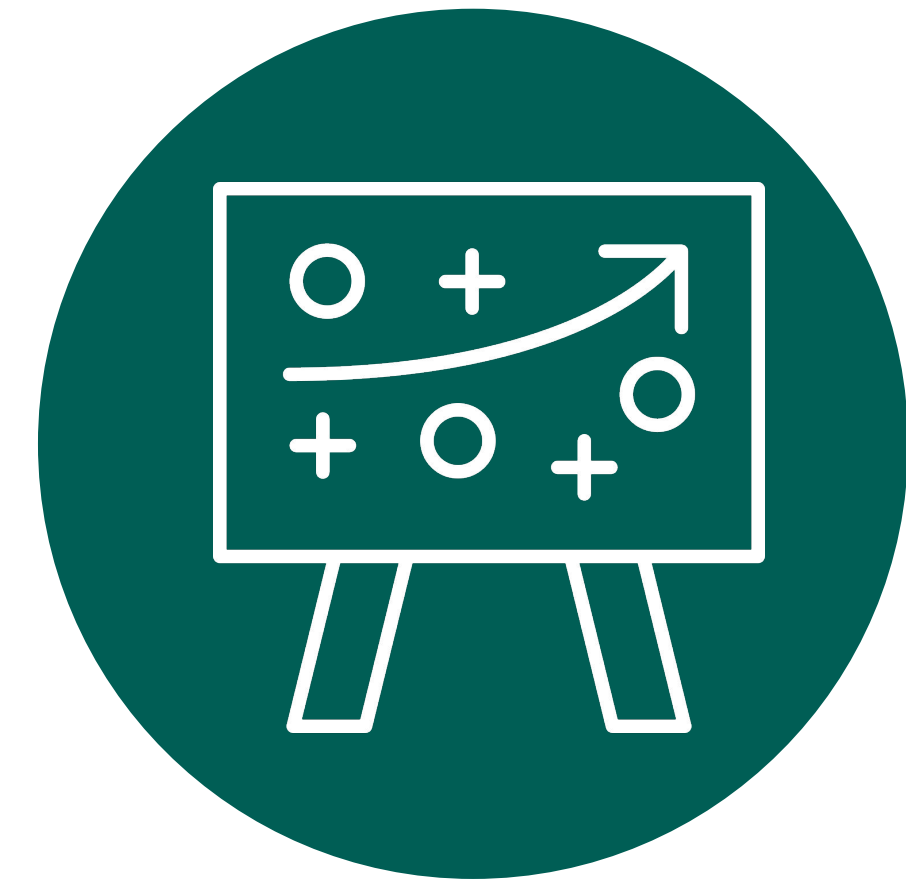
Objectives



Equip residents to shape
blue-green infrastructure
in their neighborhoods



Improve public
agency-community
collaboration in climate
resilience and watershed
planning



Offer a replicable
community engagement
model for agencies

Recruitment

- Outreach via local partners, flyers and networks
- Eligibility: Passion for greening, connection to Chollas Creek neighborhoods, time commitment, diversity
- Cohort: 20 participants across 9 neighborhoods



Curriculum

1: Understanding and Connecting

- Building strong bonds with fellow trainees and leaders
- Crafting a personal **"Story of Self"** for community empowerment

2: Green Stormwater Infrastructure

- Learning the significance of green stormwater infrastructure
- Recognizing its potential for climate resilience through community-centric design

3+4: Meaningful Public Participation

- Exploring the complexities of meaningful public participation
- Identifying challenges and strategies for overcoming them

5+6: Power Analysis and Campaign Planning

- Gaining language and tools for analyzing power dynamics
- Using Iconico tools for practical campaign planning and goal setting

7: Community Outreach and Engagement Plans

- Collaboratively developing community outreach plans

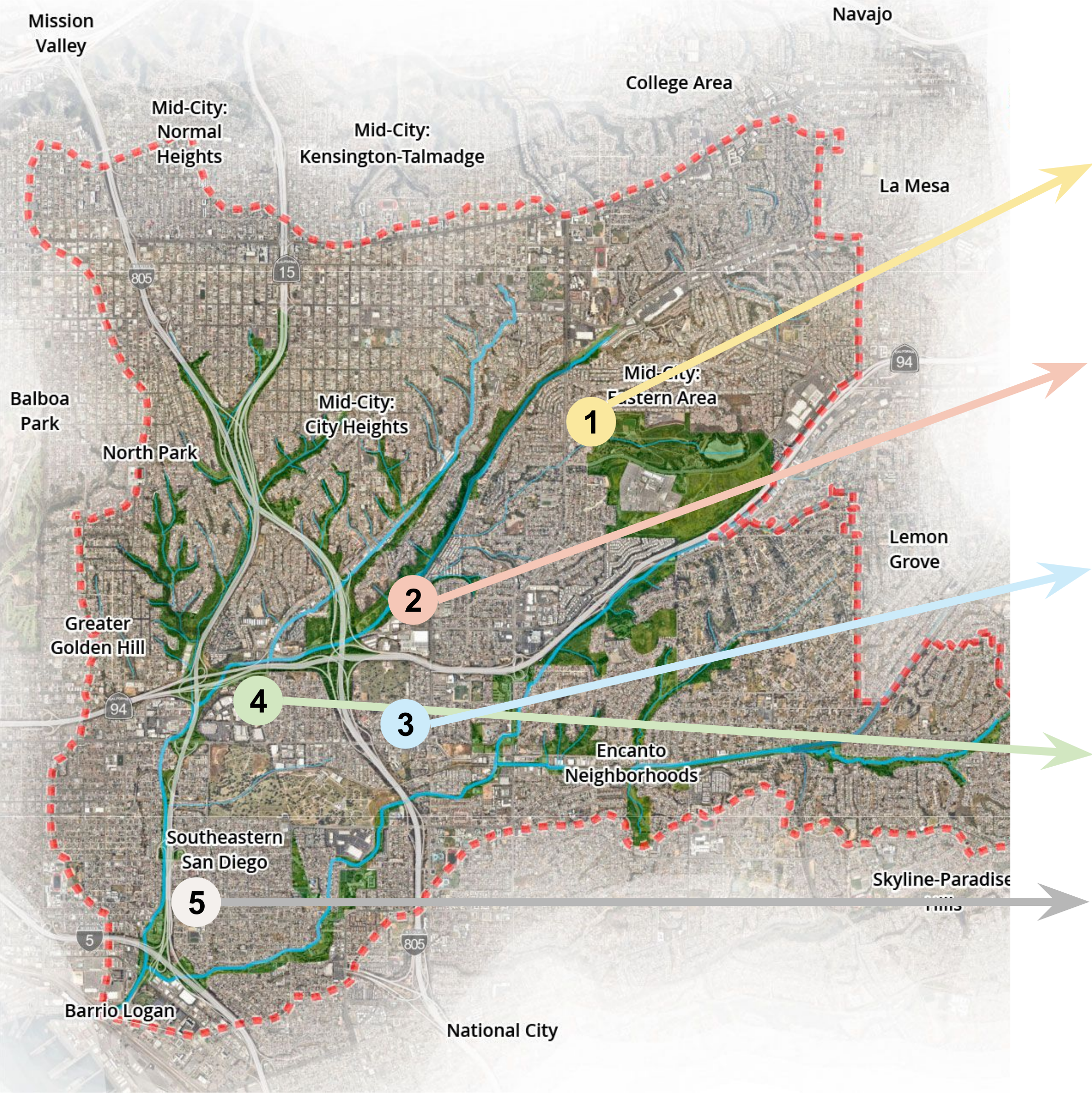
Tools: Story of Self, Story of Us, Story of Now

Tools: Story of Self, Story of Us, Story of Now

	INFORM	CONSULT	INVOLVE	COLLABORATE	EMPOWER
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION GOAL	To provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problem, alternatives and/or solutions.	To obtain public feedback on analysis, alternatives and/or decision.	To work directly with the public throughout the process to ensure that public concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered.	To partner with the public in each aspect of the decision including the development of alternatives and the identification of the preferred solution.	To place final decision-making in the hands of the public.
PROMISE TO THE PUBLIC	We will keep you informed.	We will keep you informed, listen to and acknowledge concerns and aspirations, and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.	We will work with you to ensure that your concerns and aspirations are directly reflected in the alternatives developed and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.	We will look to you for advice and innovation in formulating solutions and incorporate your advice and recommendations into the decisions to the maximum extent possible.	We will implement what you decide.



Program Tools: Real Project Sites



#	Project Name	Co-benefits	Types of GI
1	Stream View	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Tree canopy● Heat Island Effect● Community Gathering Space	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Bioswales● Permeable Pavement● Native Landscaping
2	Pocket Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Areas for recreation● Heat reduction● Beautification● Facilitate active behavior● Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Rain gardens● Permeable pavement● Native landscaping● Subsurface storage● Stormwater trees
3	Safe Routes to School	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Safe and efficient transportation for pedestrians and bicyclists● Beautification● Heat reduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Bioswales● Permeable Pavement● Native Landscaping● Stormwater trees
4	Dennis Allen and Southcrest Rec Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Beautification● Conservation & wildlife habitat	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Bioswales● Permeable Pavement● Native Landscaping
5	Ocean View	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Tree canopy● Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Permeable pavement● Native landscaping● Depaving● Stormwater trees

Pocket Park and MTS

Project Purpose:

Create a GI-infused trailhead park on 47th Street Canyon as a recommended alternative use for the City proposed 47th Street fire station.

Project Vision:

The envisioned park area includes trees could be installed with tree trenches and vegetation could include rain gardens and bioswales for filtering water quality.



Pocket Park



Goals:

- Heat reduction
- Beautification
- Facilitate active behavior
- Safety

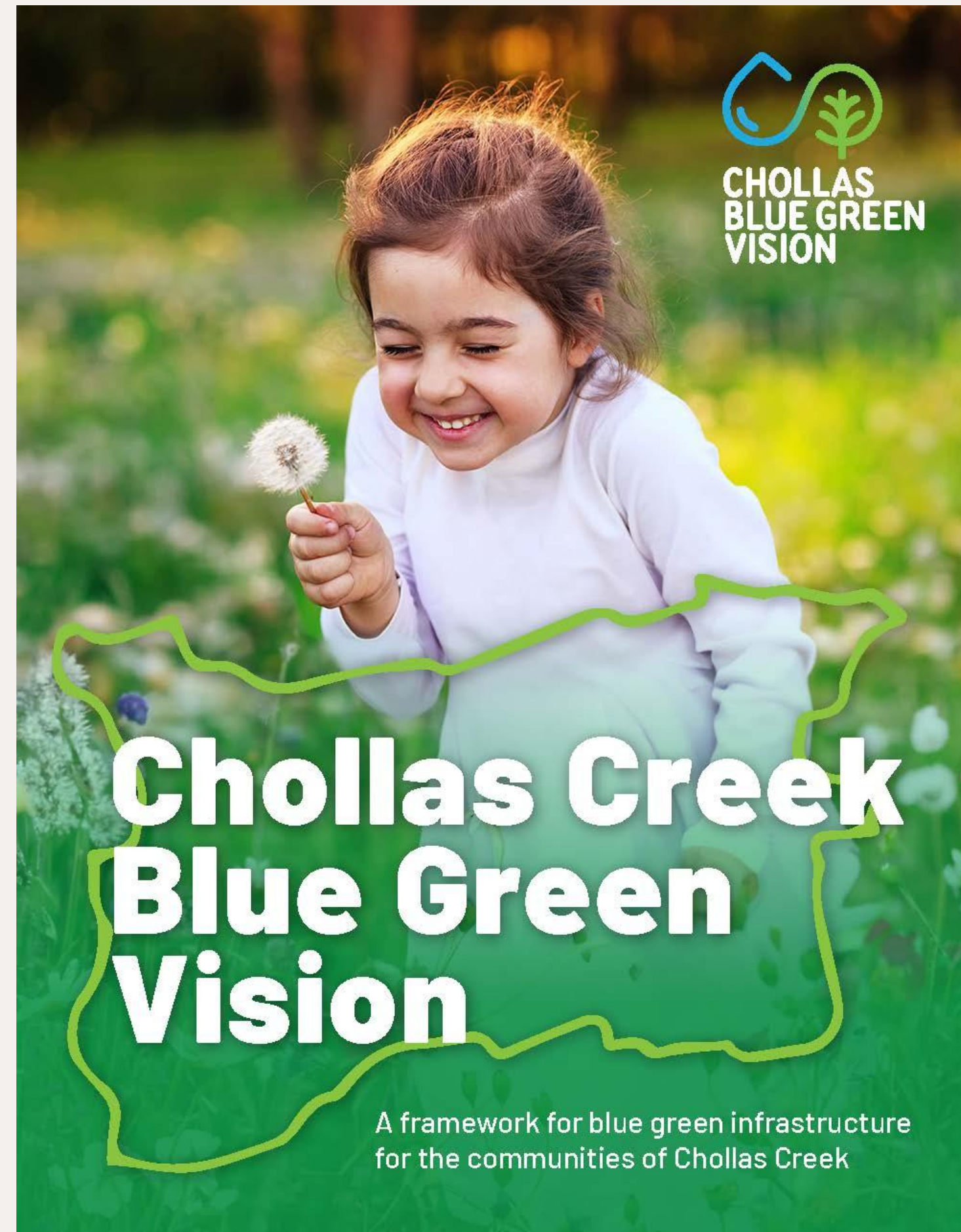
Proposed Improvements:

- Native landscape filter strips
- Rain gardens
- Permeable pavement
- Tree installation
- Lighting installation

Other Considerations:

- Locations along 47th were not included as part of this study

Ongoing Community Organizing



- 4 fellows hired into year-long paid roles in 2024
- Role: outreach, co-design, strategy input for Chollas Blue Green Vision Collaborative
- From training to embedded leadership in long-term watershed planning
- Tangible impact on the Chollas Blue Green Vision initiative

Resident Fellows



Brian Flaigmore
OAK PARK, CA

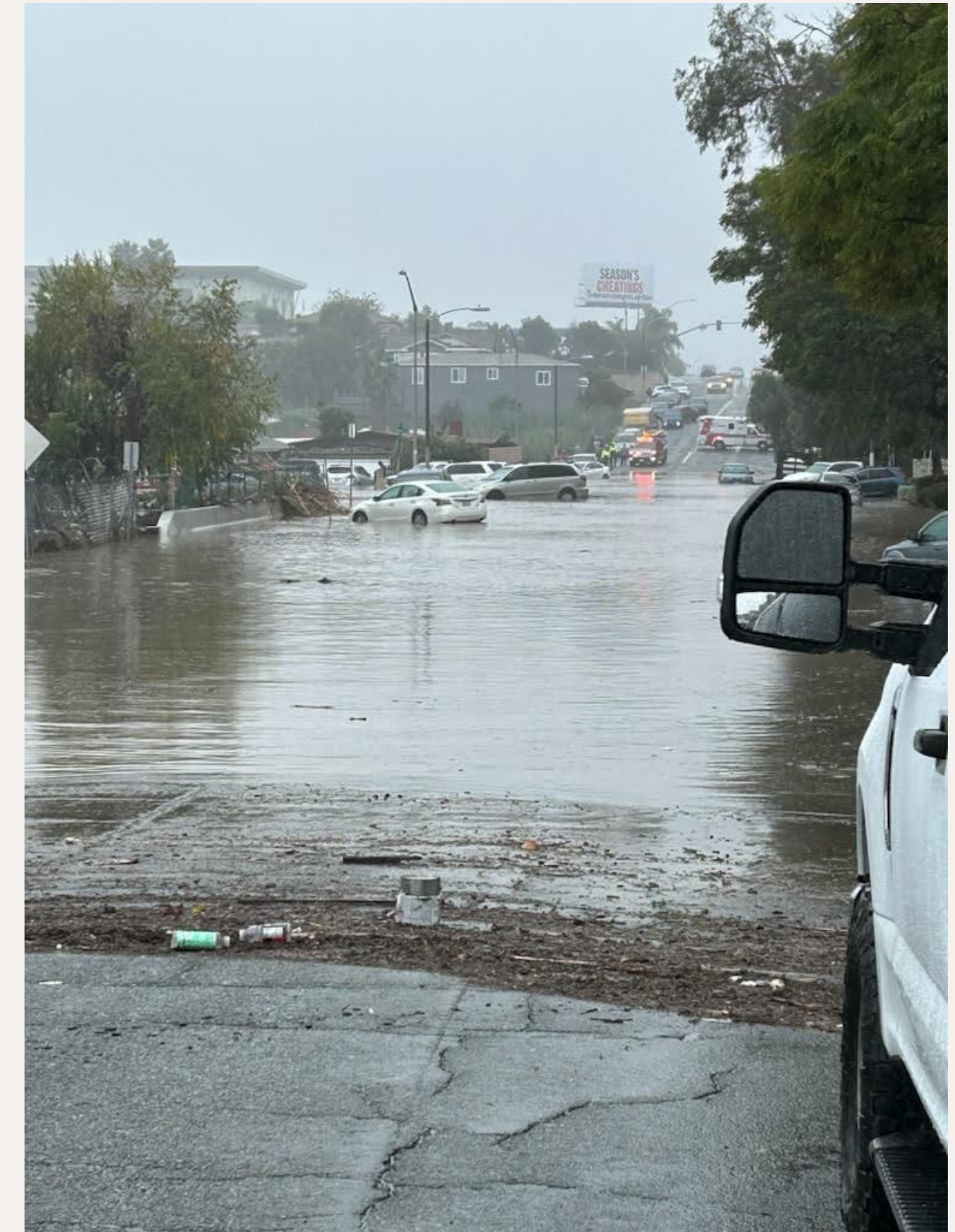


Howard Cuarezma
MOUNTAIN VIEW, CA



Jacinta Hinojosa
CHOLLAS VIEW, CA

Castana Street Flooding: Floodable Park?



Lessons Learned

**Prioritize accessibility
(stipends, flexible
formats, language
access)**

**Long-term impact
requires long-term
investment**

**Center residents as
co-creators, not just
stakeholders**

YOUR TURN!

Q+A

Interested in templates, tools and partnership opportunities?
Email amendez@greenprintpartners.com