



***Mission:***  
***To improve rural and urban livelihoods through  
integrating community development and  
conservation.***

# About WMG



**Our Mission: Watershed Management Group (WMG) develops community-based solutions to ensure the long-term prosperity of people and health of the environment. We provide people with the knowledge, skills, and resources for sustainable livelihoods.**



# WMG Programs

## Local/Regional -

- **Water Harvesting Demonstration Sites**
- **Water Harvesting Co-op**
- **School Yard Program**
- **Green Streets/  
Green Neighborhoods**
- **Water Harvesting Certification**



## International -

- **Rainwater for Potable Uses**
- **Mali, Congo, Burkina Faso**





# Water Harvesting: the challenge

- Required integration of landscape and grading
- Cost of monitoring
- Learning curve



# Water harvesting: the opportunity

- Water/cost savings
- Stormwater requirements, lot yield & detention basins
- Improved plant growth, appearance & health
- Reduced maintenance
- Energy savings
- Synergy with LEED
- Marketing
- Property value, occupancy



# The solution: project integration

- Coordinate professions/phases
- Think holistically
  - From stormwater to landscape to customer experience
  - Payback over time
- Be proactive

“Tunnel through the cost barrier”



Photo courtesy Brad Lancaster, [harvestingrainwater.com](http://harvestingrainwater.com)



# Water savings





# Stormwater requirements & lot yields



Photo courtesy Brad Lancaster, [harvestingrainwater.com](http://harvestingrainwater.com)



# Improved plant growth & health



Photo courtesy Brad Lancaster,  
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# Reduce maintenance needs



- “Smart” systems (moisture sensors)
  - Save water
  - Reduce manual ops & maintenance
- Improve life of infrastructure through:
  - Careful grading (also improves sediment issues)
  - Shading of pavement
- Water in accordance with natural cycles to reduce constant pruning
- Choose plant material for low maintenance



# Save energy



HarvestingRainwater.com ©2008 Brad Lancaster

Photo courtesy Brad Lancaster, [harvestingrainwater.com](http://harvestingrainwater.com)

# Synergy with LEED

## Associated LEED Credits:

**SS 5.1 Protect or restore habitat**

**SS 6.1 Stormwater Design: Quantity control**

**SS 6.2 Stormwater Design: Quality control**

**SS 7.1 Heat Island Effect, non-roof**

**WE 1 Reduce irrigation w/potable water 50%-100%**

**WE 2 Innovative Wastewater**

**EA 1 Optimize Energy Performance**

**Regional Priority Credits**





# Environmental benefits



- Conserve groundwater & Colorado River water
- Clean stormwater & reduce flooding
- Save energy
- Improve health of soil
- Grow trees/vegetation
  - Wildlife
  - Air quality
  - Traffic calming
  - Aesthetics
  - Quality of life

# Marketing, Property Value, Occupancy

- Turn requirements into amenities
- Increase property values & saleability
- Improve occupancy rates
- “Tunnel through the cost barrier”



Source: Urban Forest Values: Economic Benefits of Trees in Cities.  
Center for Urban Horticulture, University of Washington.



# Thank you!

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