

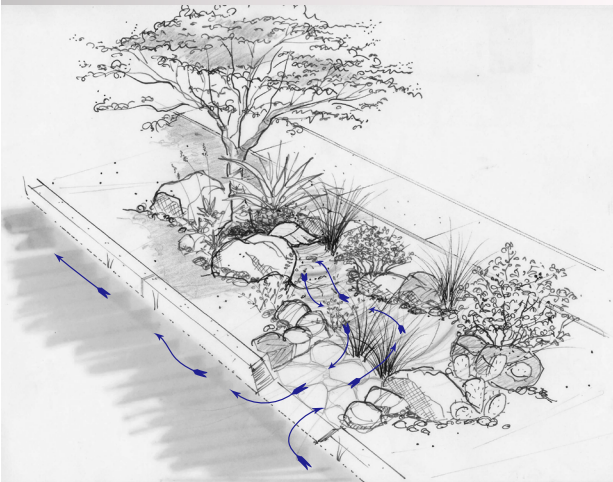
from the parking lot, and infiltrate it into the soil where it can feed trees and other plants. Organic matter and microbes in the soil and plant roots help to break down pollutants in the water.

6. Curb cuts & basins, 8th St/Cherry Ave

Together, the efforts of Watershed Management Group, RHNA, and the UA combined to transform an entire intersection! The northeast, northwest and southwest corners of the intersection all feature curb cuts and basins that feed street trees and shrubs with stormwater runoff.

7. Parking lot & alley retrofit, Cherry Ave. between 7th & 8th St.

At this site, asphalt was cut out of two parking lots to capture and infiltrate stormwater runoff. Runoff from the alley between the two lots flows into the right-of-way in front of the southern lot.



How green infrastructure works

Basins are excavated below street level to collect stormwater runoff from the street. Blue arrows show how runoff flows along the curb into the basin, feeds vegetation and infiltrates into the soil, and if necessary overflows back on to the street.

What is green infrastructure?

Green infrastructure (GI) practices use living, natural processes to provide services that benefit humans and the environment. In Rincon Heights, most GI sites are basins that collect rainwater from buildings, yards, streets and parking lots, and use the water to feed native trees and shrubs. These plants shade, cool, and beautify the neighborhood; clean air and water; and provide habitat for wildlife like birds, insects, and lizards.

Improving water quality

One of the primary functions of green infrastructure is to help clean stormwater of non-point source pollution (NPS), pollution from dispersed sources like oil, fluids and heavy metals from cars; pet waste; and herbicides. NPS pollutants can harm people and wildlife when they flow into washes and percolate into groundwater supplies. GI practices provide one way to reduce NPS, using soil, plant roots, and organic matter to filter pollutants out of the water.



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Funded by a grant from the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality



Rincon Heights Neighborhood

Green Infrastructure Bike/Walk Tour

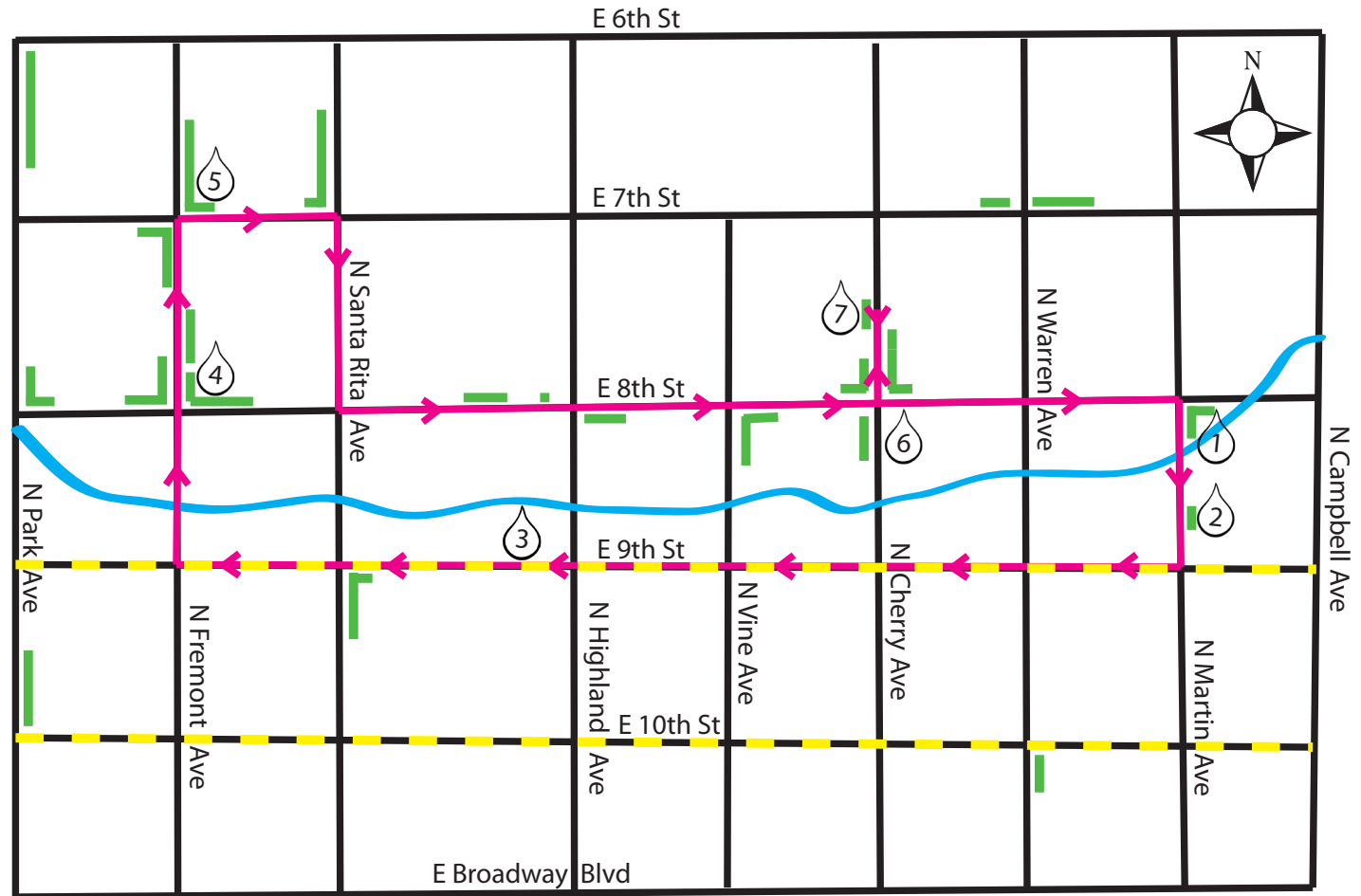
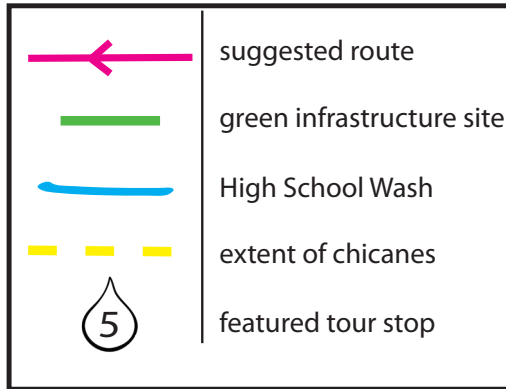
A self-guided tour of neighborhood green infrastructure sites installed by Watershed Management Group, Rincon Heights Neighborhood Association, the University of Arizona, City of Tucson and Pima County.



Produced by:



Rincon Heights Neighborhood - Green Infrastructure Sites



Tour stops

1. Feld Davis Park

In 2009, community volunteers from Rincon Heights neighborhood (RHNA) and Watershed Management Group (WGM) transformed this abandoned lot into a pocket park demonstrating water harvesting from streets, native plants, and a decorative wall built of straw bales.

2. Extreme Driveway Makeover

Rainfall runoff from this property used to erode sediment from the landscape and driveway into Martin Ave. To stop the erosion and take advantage of the runoff, berms were constructed that direct runoff into a reinforced swale and gravel-filled trench, allowing rainwater to percolate deeply into the soil where it can feed native trees and shrubs.

3. 9th St. Chicanes

80 of these features (also called curb extensions or bump-outs) were installed along 9th and 10th Street between Campbell and Park Avenue. The chicanes slow traffic by constricting the travel lanes, and also

feature flush curbs and depressed interiors that capture stormwater flowing along the curb. This water feeds a palette of trees and shrubs that shade streets and sidewalks, beautify the neighborhood, and slow drivers down.

4. Curb cuts & basins, 8th St/Fremont Ave

Both the northwest and northeast corners of this intersection were retrofitted with curb cuts and basins to capture the abundant stormwater that flows along 8th St.

in rain storms. The basins are planted with native bunch grasses, shrubs and deciduous desert willow trees that provide summer shade but allow winter sun to hit the University of Arizona's greenhouses (NW corner) in the winter.

5. Parking Lot Swale

Parking lots generate a lot of stormwater runoff, sending oil and other car-related pollutants downstream. At this site, the UA installed a long swale to capture runoff

Route length: 1 mile

Time needed to walk route: 1 hour

Time needed to bike route: 1/2 hour