

# Introduction to the Sustainable Sites Initiative (SITES®)

Grow Green Landscape Professional Training | Austin, TX

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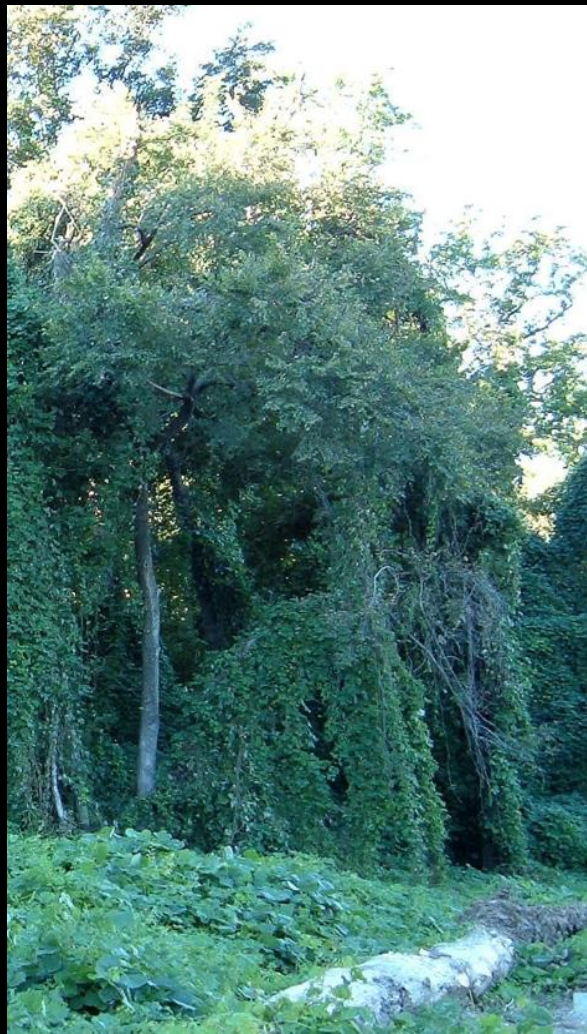
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# INTRODUCTION

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Background & History, Pilot Process, SITES v2







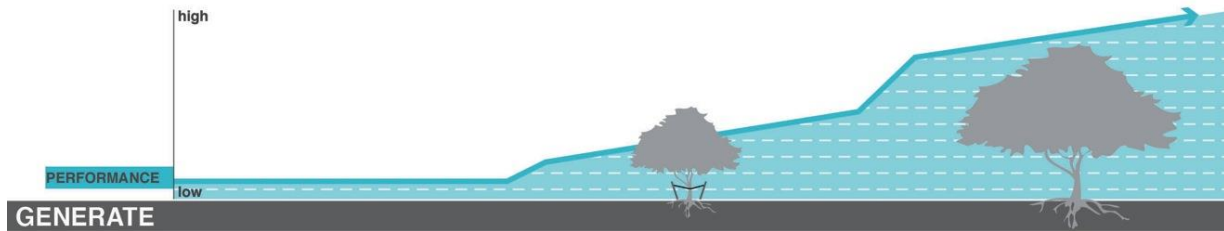
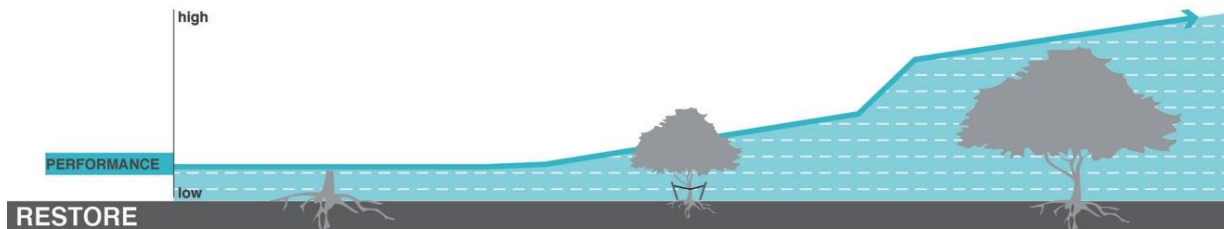
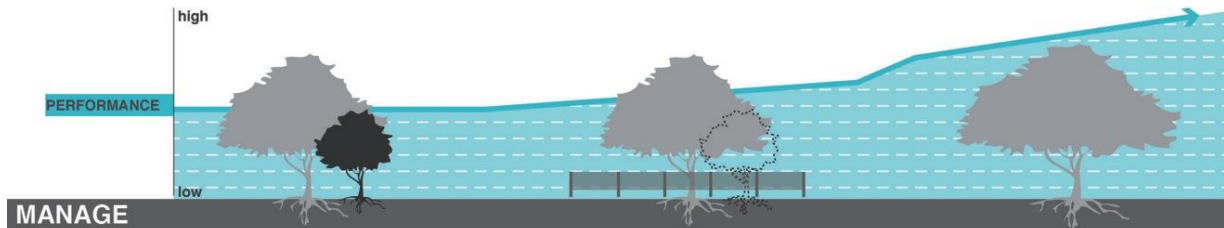
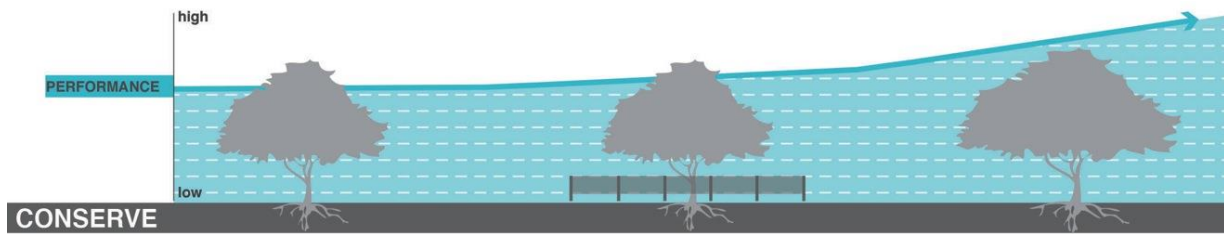


# ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

**Ecosystem services** are the benefits people obtain from ecosystems that support our lives, but are often considered free and not a part of conventional accounting methods



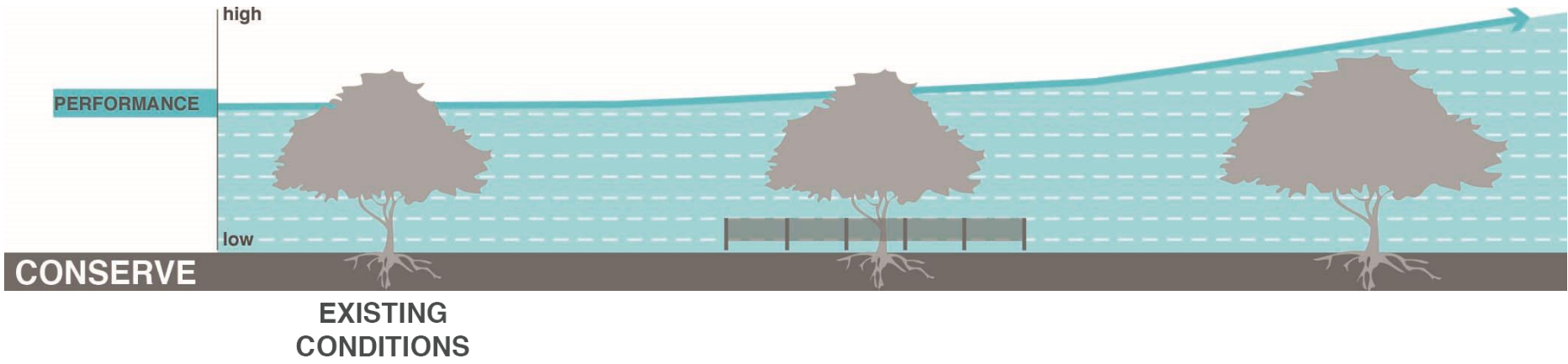


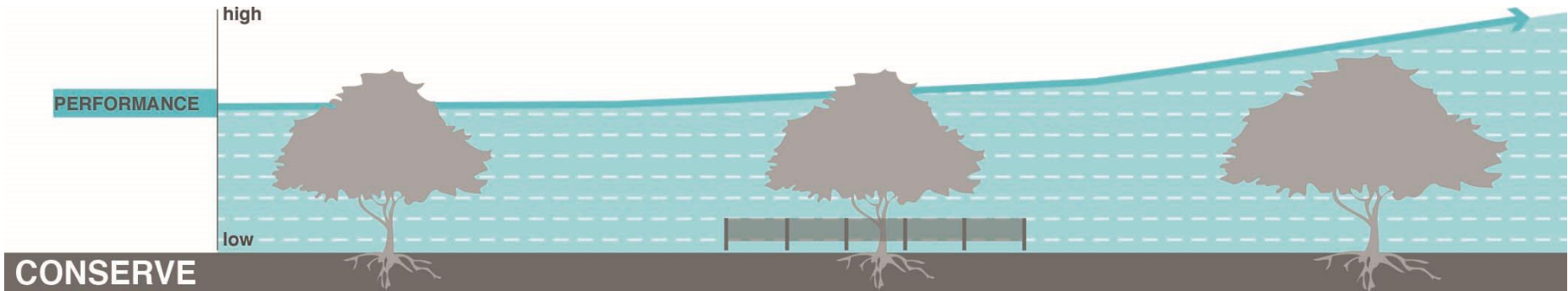


EXISTING  
CONDITIONS

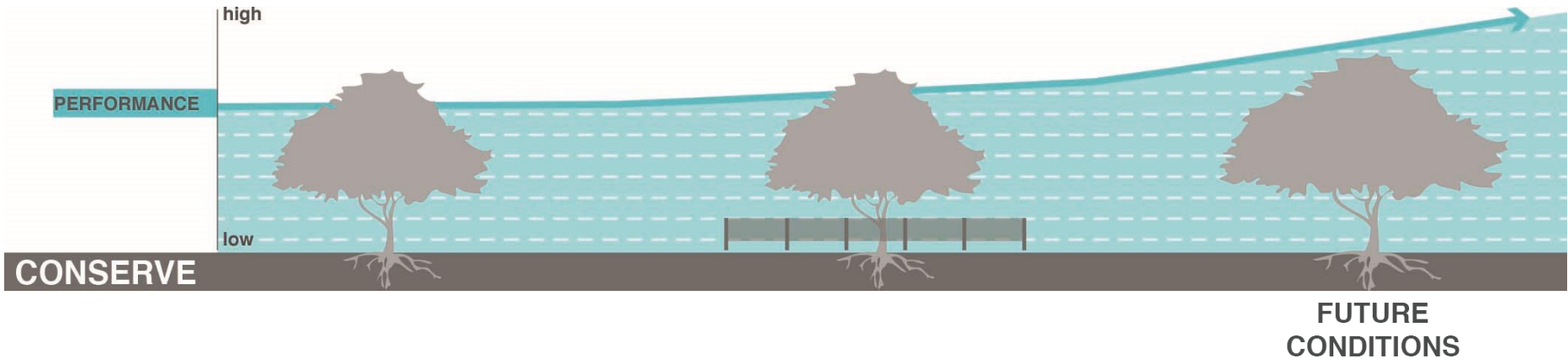
DURING SITES  
PROJECT  
DEVELOPMENT

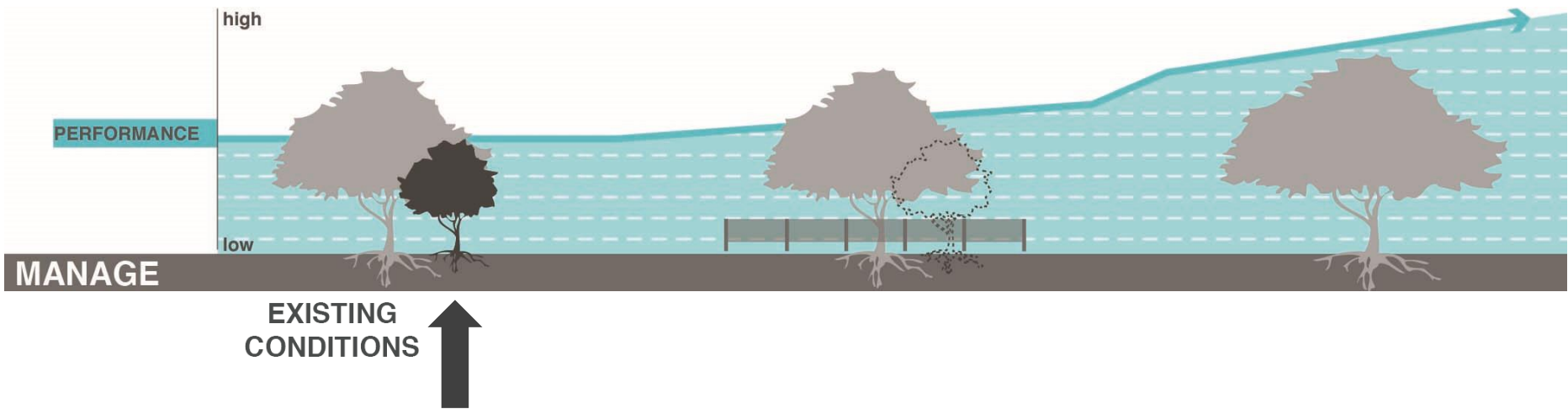
FUTURE  
CONDITIONS





DURING SITES  
PROJECT  
DEVELOPMENT





high

PERFORMANCE

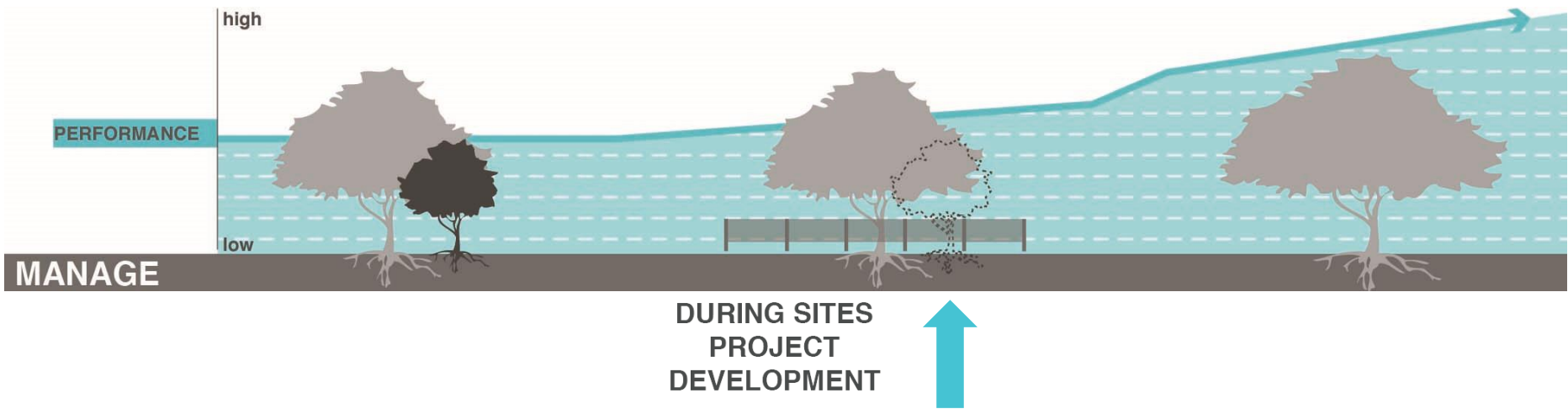
low

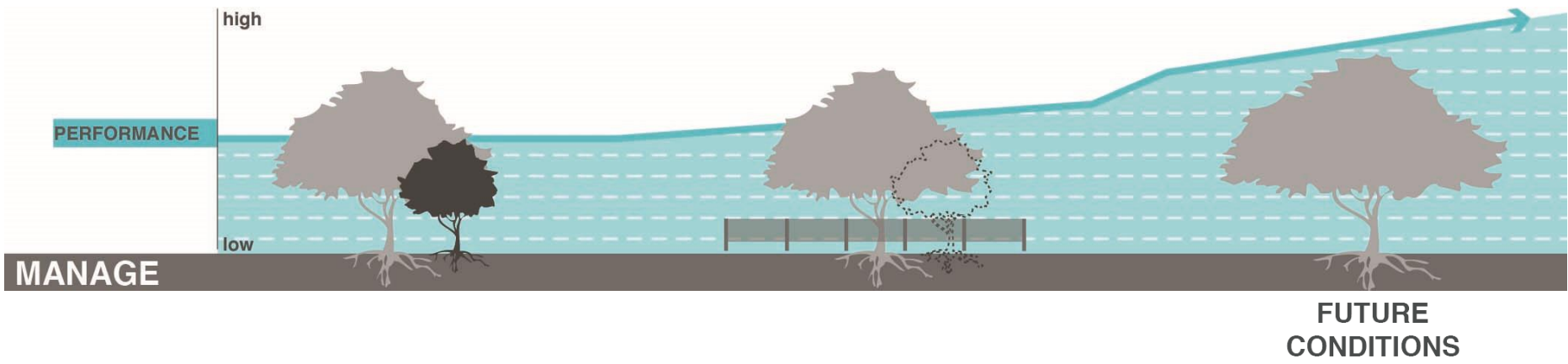
MANAGE

EXISTING  
CONDITIONS



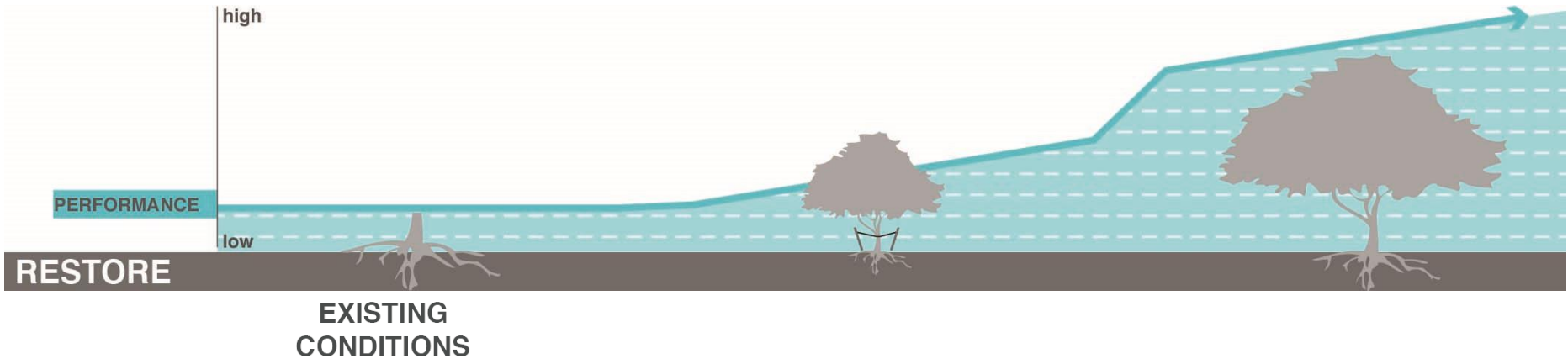


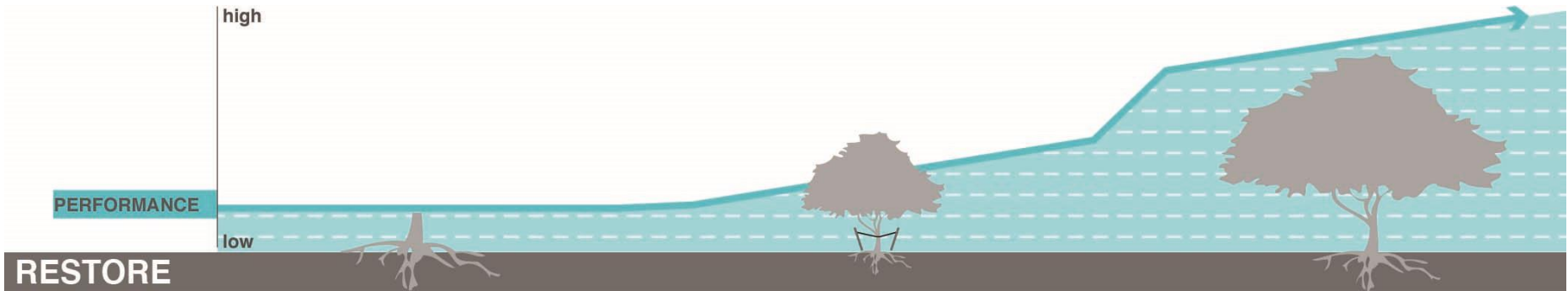




**MANAGE**

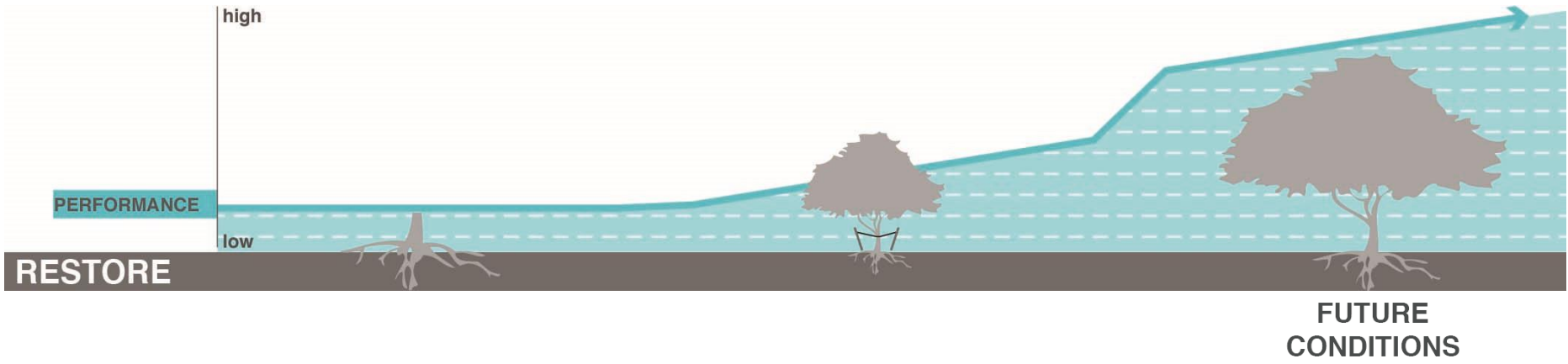
**FUTURE  
CONDITIONS**

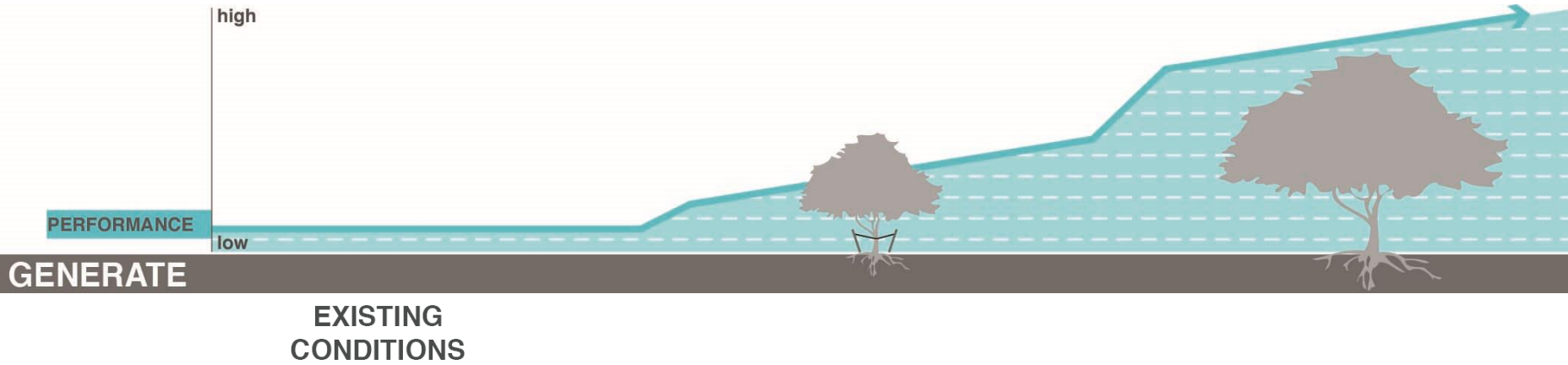


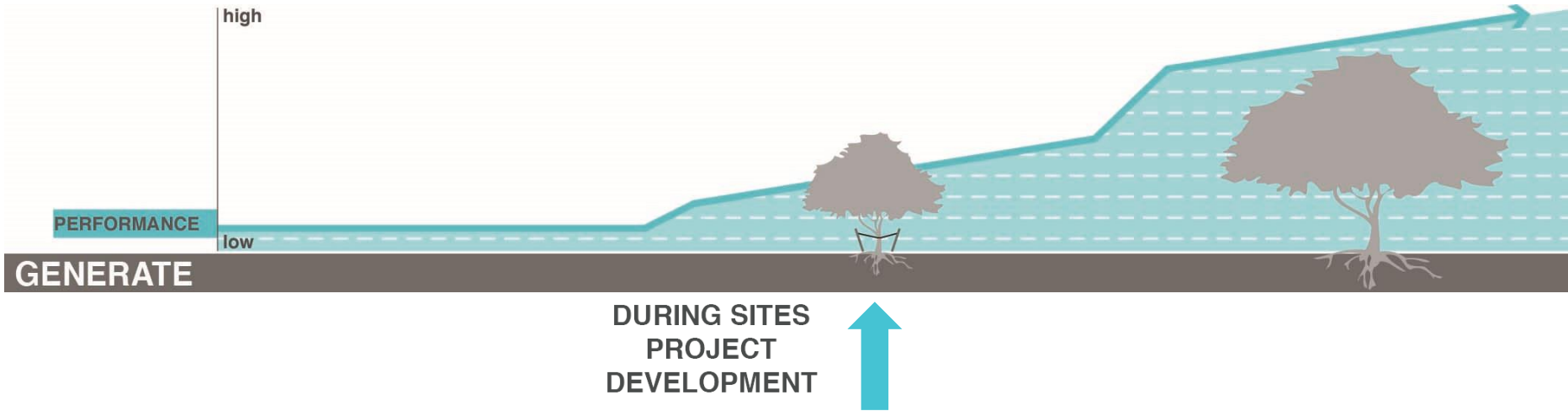


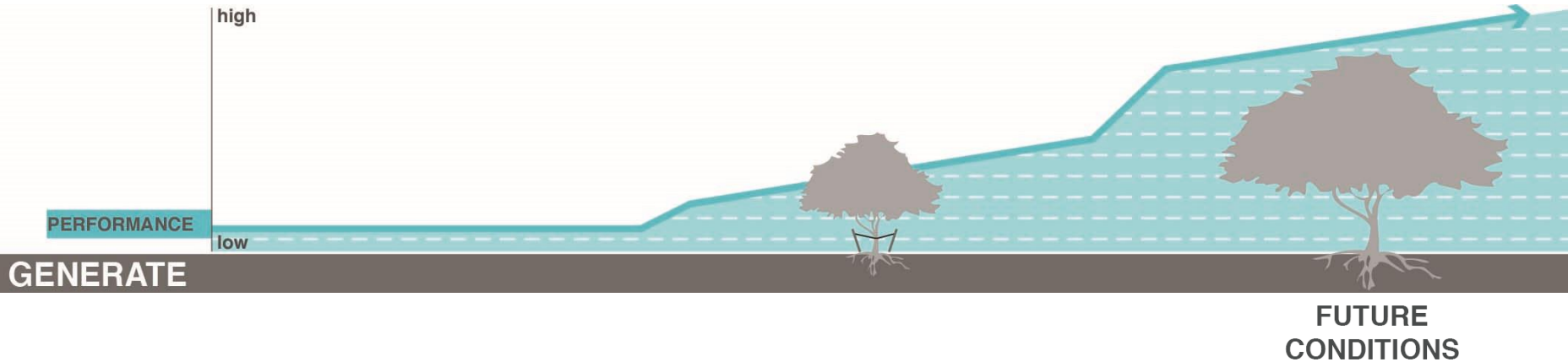
DURING SITES  
PROJECT  
DEVELOPMENT



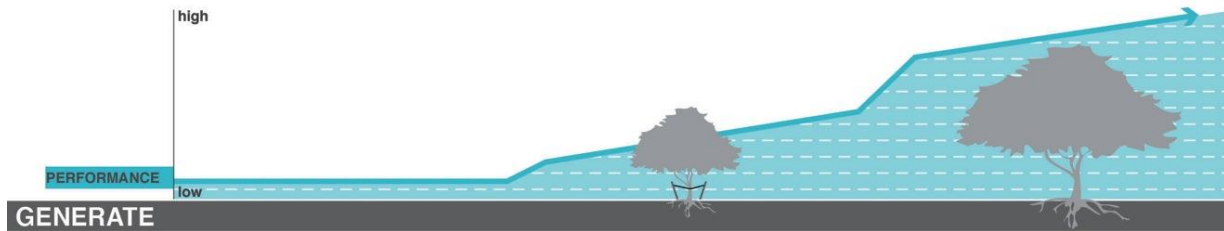
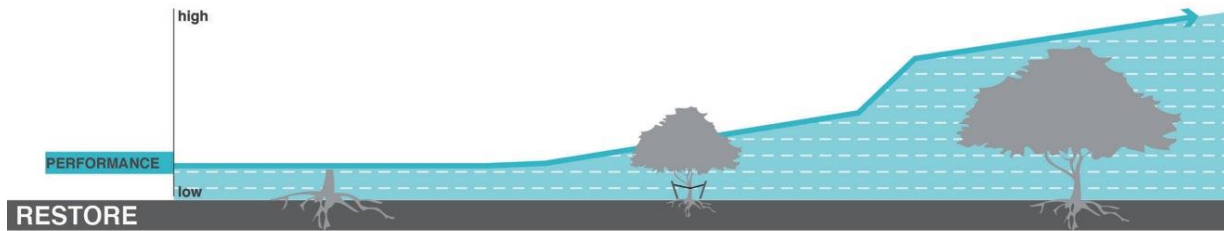
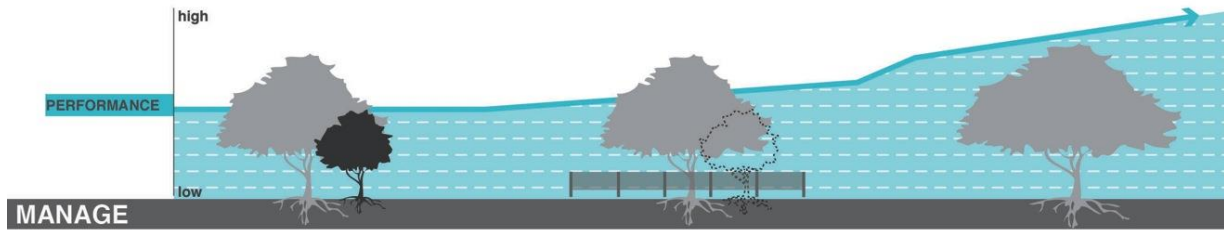
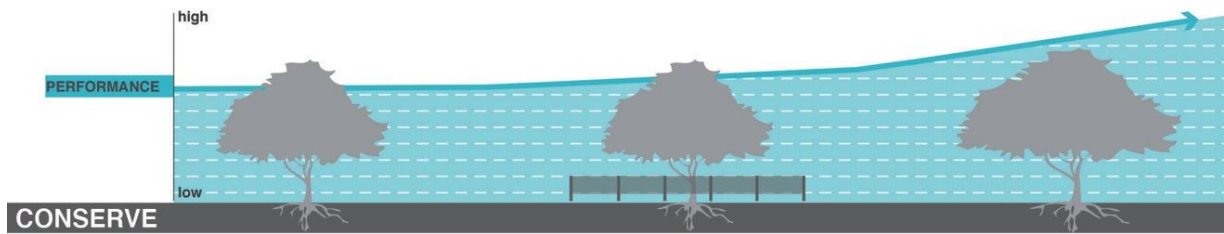












EXISTING  
CONDITIONS

DURING SITES  
PROJECT  
DEVELOPMENT

FUTURE  
CONDITIONS

# Three Reports Released to the Public Prior to SITES v2

*Standards & Guidelines Preliminary Report*  
2007

*Guidelines and Performance Benchmarks Draft*  
2008

*Guidelines and Performance Benchmarks (“v1”)*  
2009

## **STANDARDS & GUIDELINES: Preliminary Report**

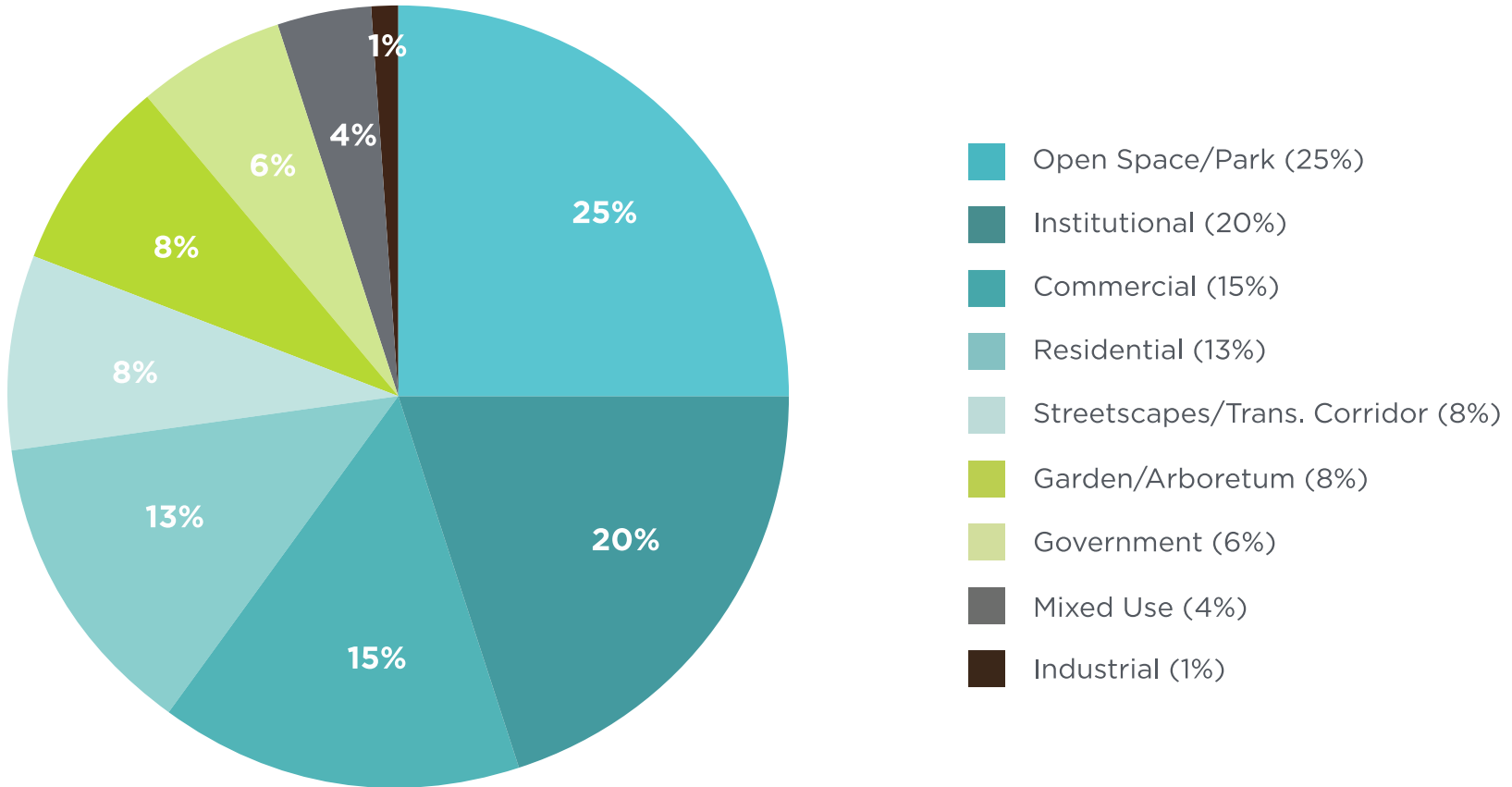
*November 1, 2007*

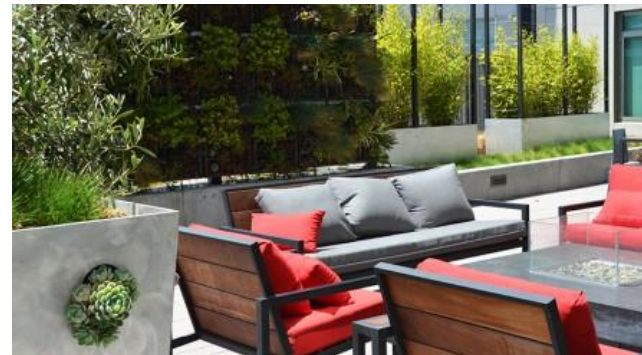
### **THE SUSTAINABLE SITES INITIATIVE™**



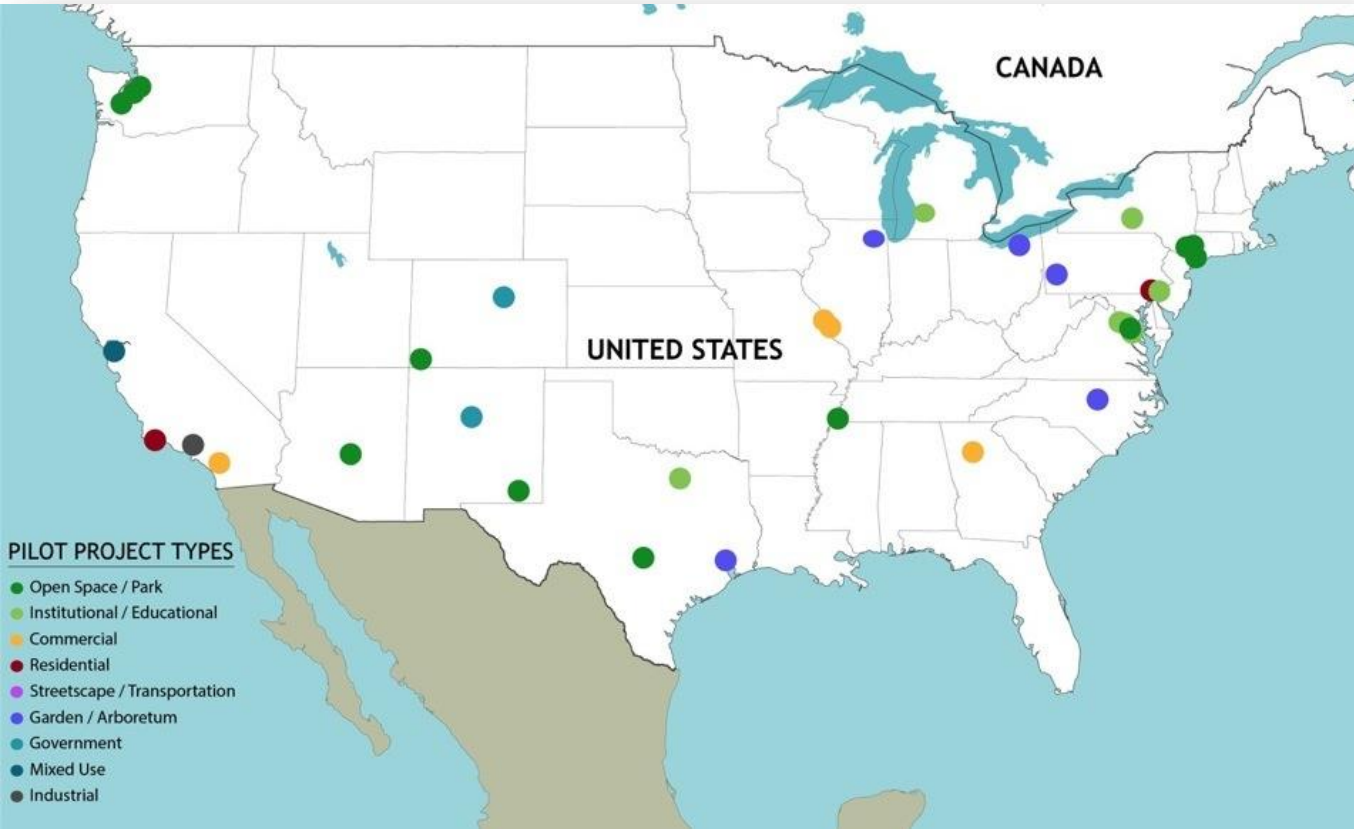
# PILOT PROGRAM

# Participating Pilot Projects





# Certified Pilot Projects



## PROJECT TYPES

18 Park

10 Educational

6 Garden

6 Commercial

3 Government

2 Residential

1 Industrial

1 Mixed Use

# Certified Pilot Projects



## FORMER LAND USE

31 Greyfield

8 Brownfield

8 Greenfield

## SITE CONTEXT

26 Urban

18 Suburban

3 Rural

# Certified Pilot Projects



## PROJECT SIZES

13 Under 1 Acre

16 Between 1-5 Acres

15 Between 6-100 Acres

3 Between 100- 500 Acres



# Lessons Learned

- Refined technical content
- Improved clarity and provided more guidance
- Streamlined documentation
- Combined credits with similar goals
- Introduced new credits
- Fine-tuned weighting system to encourage broad participation

- » Create regenerative systems & foster resiliency
- » Ensure future resource supply & mitigate climate change
- » Transform the market through the design, development & maintenance practices
- » Enhance human wellbeing & strengthen community

# SITES v2

## Rating System

For Sustainable Land Design and Development



Sustainable  
SITES  
Initiative

# SITES v2

## Reference Guide

For Sustainable Land Design and Development



Sustainable  
SITES  
Initiative

# SITES v2

## Rating System

For Sustainable Land Design and Development



Sustainable  
SITES  
Initiative



**SECTION 1:** SITE CONTEXT



**SECTION 2:** PRE-DESIGN ASSESSMENT & PLANNING



**SECTION 3:** SITE DESIGN — WATER



**SECTION 4:** SITE DESIGN — SOIL + VEGETATION



**SECTION 5:** SITE DESIGN — MATERIALS



**SECTION 6:** SITE DESIGN — HUMAN HEALTH + WELLBEING



**SECTION 7:** CONSTRUCTION



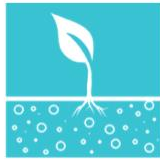
**SECTION 8:** OPERATIONS + MAINTENANCE



**SECTION 9:** EDUCATION + PERFORMANCE MONITORING



**SECTION 10:** INNOVATION + EXEMPLARY PERFORMANCE



**SITE  
SELECTION**

**PRE-DESIGN  
ASSESSMENT**

**DESIGN DEVELOPMENT & CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENTS**

**CONSTRUCTION**

**OPERATIONS &  
MAINTENANCE**

**MONITORING & EDUCATION**

START

FINISH

# SUITABILITY

- ▶ New construction or major renovations
- ▶ No maximum size
- ▶ Minimum of 2,000 square feet
- ▶ Anywhere in the world
- ▶ **Early engagement**



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# Incorporating Natural Infrastructure and Ecosystem Services in Federal Decision-Making

OCTOBER 7, 2015 AT 2:30 PM ET BY TAMARA DICKINSON, TIMOTHY MALE, ALI ZAIDI



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**Summary:** Today, the Administration released a new memorandum directing Federal agencies to factor the value of ecosystem services into Federal planning and decision-making.

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Our natural world provides critical contributions that support and protect our communities and economy. For instance, Louisiana's coastal wetlands provide [billions of dollars worth of flood protection](#) and other benefits. [Preserving and restoring forests](#) in the Catskill Mountains enables New York City to access clean water at a cost several times less than the cost of building a new water-filtration plant. And [current efforts to plant trees](#) along Oregon's salmon-rich rivers will improve local water quality – saving costs associated with installing expensive machinery to achieve the same purpose.



# Council on Environmental Quality

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## INITIATIVES

[Climate Change Resilience](#)[Federal Sustainability Sustainability Plans](#)[OMB Scorecards](#)[GHG Accounting and Inventories](#)[Sustainable Locations](#)[Landscaping Guidance](#)[Water Instructions](#)[America's Great Outdoors](#)[National Ocean Policy](#)

## Guidance for Federal Agencies on Sustainable Practices for Designed Landscapes and Supporting Pollinators on Federal Landscapes

President Obama's [Executive Order 13514](#) provides a unique opportunity for Federal agencies and facilities to improve sustainability across their operations. The Executive Order, in addition to its call for agencies to implement sustainable practices when constructing and operating high performance Federal buildings, establishes goals for the conservation of water resources on Federal facilities including potable, industrial, landscaping, and agricultural water. The Executive Order also calls for pollution prevention through a variety of landscape management practices.

To help achieve these policy goals, CEQ issued on October 31, 2011 [Guidance for Federal Agencies on Sustainable Practices for Designed Landscapes](#), which describes strategies to achieve sustainable Federal landscape practices. This guidance is to be used by Federal agencies for landscape practices when constructing new, or rehabilitating existing, owned or leased facilities, or



**QUESTIONS?**

**THANK YOU**