

Cheonggyecheon Stream Restoration — Seoul Replaces a Downtown Expressway with a 5.8 km Urban Stream

City Innovation Library · Good practice · South Korea

Quality score: 71/100

Evidence strength: Strong

Summary

Seoul removed an elevated expressway and daylighted a buried stream (2003–05). Reported results: 3.3–5.9°C cooler than a parallel road, PM10 down 35%, land values up 30–50%. Costs included ongoing pumping and displacement and gentrification risks.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Sustainability / continuity	2/3
Evidence of impact / measured results	2/3
Transferability / demonstrated replication	3/3
Scalability	2/3
Innovation	3/3
Inclusiveness / equity	1/3
Multi-stakeholder collaboration	2/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

[C-NAPSE web research](#) — accessed 2026-10-06

[Seoul Metropolitan Government](#) — accessed 2026-10-06

[Landscape Performance Series — benefits methodology](#) — accessed 2026-10-06

[Society for Ecological Restoration — Cheonggyecheon case](#) — accessed 2026-10-06

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