

Chicago Green Alleys — Permeable-Pavement Alley Reconstruction, ~400 Built and Unevenly Sited

PES & Nature-Based Solutions · Good practice · United States of America

Quality score: 27/100

Evidence strength: Cautionary / limited

Summary

Since four pilots in 2001 and a formal programme in 2006, Chicago has rebuilt about 400 alleys with permeable paving to cut flooding; the city estimates up to 80% of rain can infiltrate, but siting favours low-flood-risk wards.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Carbon — sequestration / storage, evidenced	0/3
Biodiversity — conservation / improvement, evidenced	0/3
Water & soil — retention, infiltration, erosion control	2/3
Fire resilience — risk reduction, evidenced	0/3
Governance, certification & transferability	2/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

[C-NAPSE web research](#) — accessed 2026-10-01

[Chicago Department of Transportation \(CDOT\)](#) — accessed 2026-10-01

[City of Chicago — Green Alleys](#) — accessed 2026-10-01

[Block Club Chicago — Green alleys and flooding inequity \(2024\)](#) — accessed 2026-10-01

[Chicago Green Alley Handbook \(2010\)](#) — accessed 2026-10-01

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