

# Zürich's Bachkonzept — Four Decades of Urban Stream Daylighting & Sewer Separation

PES & Nature-Based Solutions · Good practice · Switzerland

Quality score: 47/100

Evidence strength: Observational / pre–post

## Summary

Since 1988, Zürich's Bachkonzept has systematically separated clean rainwater from sewage and reopened culverted streams, daylighting about 20 of the city's roughly 40 km of open watercourses to cut flood risk, ease treatment-plant loads and reconnect aquatic habitat.

## Key dimensions

| Dimension                                               | Score |
|---------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| Carbon — sequestration / storage, evidenced             | 0/3   |
| Biodiversity — conservation / improvement, evidenced    | 1/3   |
| Water & soil — retention, infiltration, erosion control | 3/3   |
| Fire resilience — risk reduction, evidenced             | 0/3   |
| Governance, certification & transferability             | 3/3   |

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

## Data sources

C-NAPSE web research — accessed 2026-08-30

City of Zürich (Entsorgung + Recycling Zürich / Tiefbauamt) — accessed 2026-08-30

City of Zürich — Bäche in Zürich (Gewässerschutz) — accessed 2026-08-30

Urban stream daylighting as a nature-based solution: Seoul's Cheonggyecheon and Zürich's Bäckkonzept, J. Environmental Planning and Management (2025) — accessed 2026-08-30

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