



The Center for Sustainable Cities

in partnership with



The Most Overlooked Public Asset in Los Angeles is Right in Your Backyard... Alleys

The City of Los Angeles has over 900 miles of alleys. Alley revitalization can provide multiple social and environmental benefits.

Improve Watershed Health

Green the City

Enhance Neighborhood Safety and Recreation

Reduce Pollution

City of Los Angeles Alleys by Census Tract

San Fernando Valley, Downtown LA, San Pedro

City Boundary, Census Tract, City Alleys

Opportunities for alley revitalization exist in every LA neighborhood

Converting alleys into usable spaces has valuable implications for water conservation, health, safety and overall quality of life in Southern California.

Why Revitalize Alleys?

Create recreational opportunities

Alleys are a vital land resource in many park-poor neighborhood, where obesity is a major health problem.. Transforming alleys into walkable, bikable, playable spaces can supplement scarce park resources by using existing underused infrastructure.

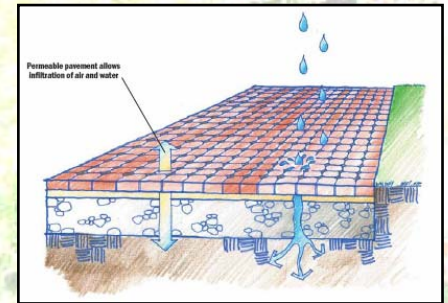


Encourage neighborhood walkability and connectivity

“Active alleys” can provide neighborhood connections between parks, schools and community centers. Converted alleys will encourage people to walk rather than drive when making trips to stores, parks, and other nearby destinations.

Improve water quality and supply

Simple infrastructure changes such as using permeable pavement in alleys will reduce urban runoff, recharge groundwater, and improve water quality in streams, rivers, and coastal waters.



Reduce crime

Many residents perceive alleys as unsafe. Improving lighting and making alleys attractive will help address safety concerns and encourage their use.



Green the urban matrix

Planting drought tolerant, California-friendly plants in combination with permeable pavement will create shade, retain water, reduce the heat island effect and provide habitat for native species.

Invest public dollars intelligently

Converted alleys are a wise investment of infrastructure dollars because they provide the benefits described above. Publicly funded programs such as stormwater systems, urban green space, and public health and policing services will directly—and financially—benefit from alley conversion. For example, permeable pavement would help recharge our groundwater supplies, allowing the City to reduce costly water purchases from outside the region.

Converting alleys will still allow for current uses such as car access and trash pickup

City services and access to residential parking will remain. Therefore, city agencies, including Recreation and Parks, Planning, Community Redevelopment Association and Public Works, all support appropriate alley conversion.

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Center for Sustainable Cities

Jennifer R. Wolch, Director

jwolch@usc.edu

Josh Newell, Project Manager

jnewell@college.usc.edu

3620 South Vermont Avenue
Kaprielian Hall

Los Angeles, CA 90089-0255

213-821-1325 (tel)

213-740-0056 (fax)

<http://csc.usc.edu/>