# URBAN ECOSYSTEM RESTORATIONS, INC.

## Make Every Square Foot Count

July 2016

# UER Creates and Protects Eco-Functioning Spaces

# ECO-FUNCTIONING SPACES

INTEGRATE

MULTIPLE ECOSYSTEM FUNCTIONS

TO CREATE VALUE

OVER TIME

# Four environmental functions of every EFS

Natural and native habitat

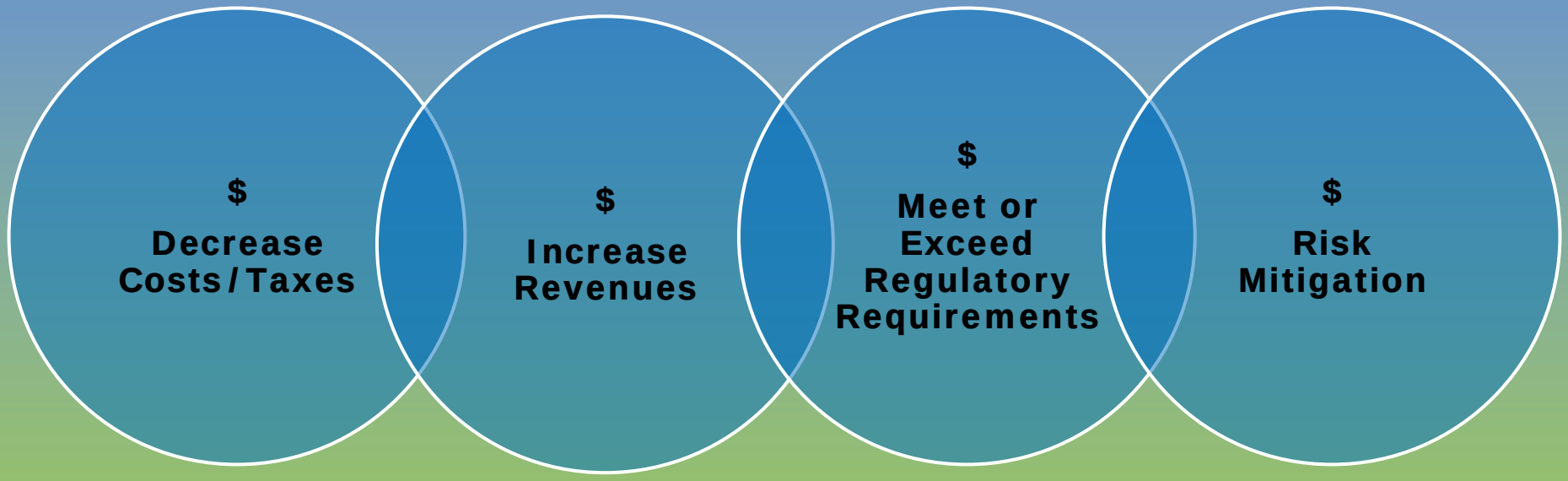
Public health or environmental and science education

Stormwater retention and filtration

Air quality improvement and greenhouse gas absorption

# Four economic functions of EFS

Protected Eco-Functioning Spaces create value over time



# Urban Ecosystem Restorations, Inc.

***Who we are***

**Urban Ecosystem Restorations, Inc. (UER)** is a nonprofit urban land trust that develops and protects **Eco-Functioning Spaces (EFS)** – spaces that provide environmental, social and financial value – on private lands.

***What we do***

**Create** → **Engage** → **Protect** → **Aggregate**

**Create** EFS on private urban lands, with focus on strategic locations that benefit the Potomac and Anacostia River Watersheds

**Engage** people – tenants and community members – building connections to the EFS through education and outreach to capture value and create demand

**Protect** the ecosystem functions within these spaces for extended periods of time (generally >30 years)

**Aggregate** EFS to restore large scale ecosystem function and connect EFS at local and regional levels

# UER protects Eco-Functioning Spaces over time to ensure long-term benefit

UER protection and maintenance

# UER services

UER serves landowners and developers who are planning for new construction projects, rehabilitation projects, landscape retrofits, or who may be trying to preserve natural areas of their sites

## Create

- Developing options for potential EFS projects
- Maximizing on-site ecosystem function and economic value
- Optimizing interactions among building systems, site users, and EFS
- Assisting in eco-rating system accreditation
- Designing and installing EFS
- Drafting legal instruments to enable installation and stewardship of EFS
- Assisting in government relations

## Engage

- Educational programming
- Educational signage
- Maintenance manuals or brochures
- Individual tours
- Online resources and remote technical assistance
- Marketing successful EFS as case studies
- Partnering with STEM or public health programs to build scientific knowledge or to improve health outcomes

## Protect

- Monitoring of EFS
- Specialized maintenance services (for aesthetics and eco-service functionality)
- Performance reporting
- Certifying certain areas as legitimate eco-functioning spaces
- Managing access to, and use of, the EFS (per UER-landowner agreements)
- Landowner/tenant/user relations & Multi-owner relations management

# Active Projects

# RiverSmart Innovation Project

Pilot study to assess performance of RiverSmart Homes rain gardens, and to recommend long-term strategies to enhance maintenance and stewardship components of RiverSmart programs

- Evaluate performance of approximately 30 RiverSmart Homes rain gardens installed in MS4 communities in the Anacostia watershed (likely Wards 5 and 7)
  - Performance = stormwater retention, homeowner education & engagement, financial net-benefit to homeowners
- Engage with homeowners and community to assist individuals with affordable long-term management and maintenance of green infrastructure
  - Create Advisory Council to support and guide community outreach
  - Engage with with homeowners includes initial survey as well as follow-up visit to provide customized guidance on maintenance
- Develop a strategy to expand pilot program, recommend long term stewardship component of the RiverSmart program

# Strategic Mapping Project – MET funded

Identify key land parcels that, if restored with EFS, will materially strengthen the natural environment in some of the most degraded areas of Montgomery County and Prince George's County

- Identify and target privately-owned land parcels that are:
  - adjacent to protected natural areas
  - adjacent to other lands that have already received public investments in green infrastructure
  - are unprotected natural areas of sufficient size that they significantly affect environmental quality
- Map priority sites for future installation of EFS in inner suburbs of Prince George's and Montgomery Counties
- Identify privately owned lands adjacent to publicly protected sites to extend ecosystem services

# Thank you

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