

# Sponsored Thesis Project Competition on "Re-imagining Urban Rivers"

## Blue-Green Infrastructure Planning for Sustainable Development - Tirunelveli

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### STUDY AREA DETAILS

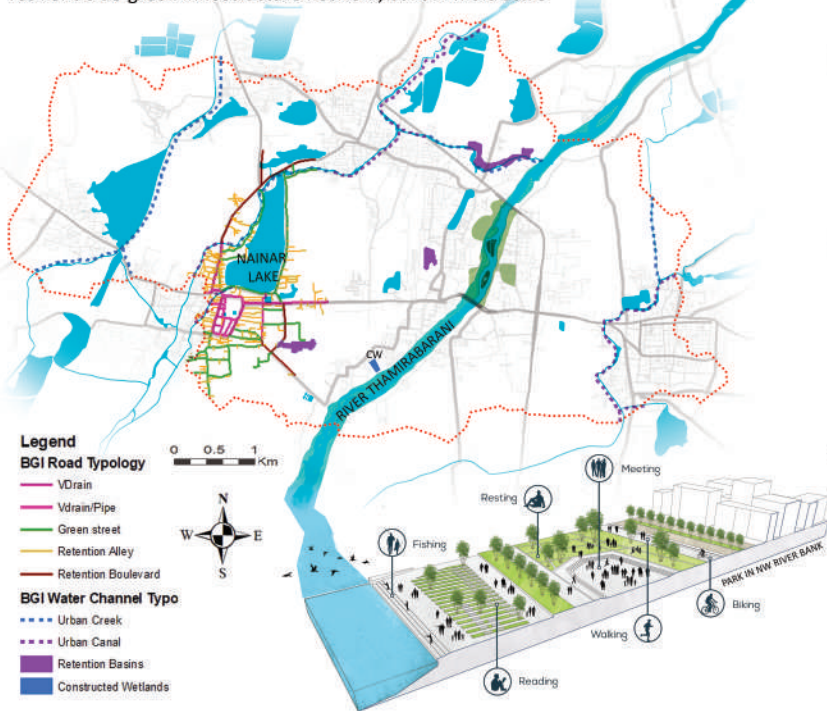
Location : Tirunelveli, Tamil Nadu  
M.Corp Population : 473637  
Name of the River : Thamirabarani River  
Origin of the river : Western Ghats -Pothigai Hills  
Confluence Point : Bay of Bengal -Gulf of Mannar.  
River Basin : L.Thamirabarani River Basin  
Site Study Area : 29.18 Sq.km  
River stretch studied : 4.66 km  
Flood Plain : 120m to 250 m

### CONCEPT:

The blue-green Infrastructure planning is a strategic planning approach that aims to develop network of green and blue spaces in urban areas, designed and managed to deliver wide ranges of ecosystem services and benefits of environmental, economical and social aspects

### AIM:

To contribute & protect hydrologic and ecological values of tirunelveli city, through resilient blue-green infrastructure network, built in multi scale



**Legend**  
**BGI Road Typology**  
V-Drain  
V-Drain/Pipe  
Green street  
Retention Alley  
Retention Boulevard  
**BGI Water Channel Type**  
Urban Creek  
Urban Canal  
Retention Basins  
Constructed Wetlands

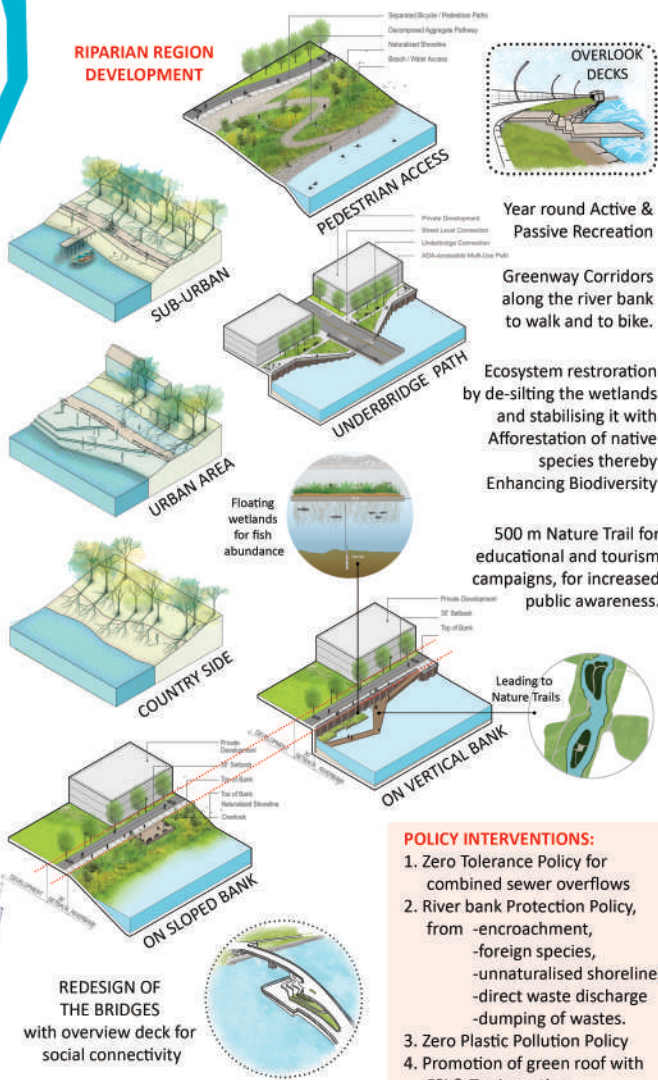
### RIVERBANK DESIGN GUIDELINES:

Checklist Design Guidelines for River bank development is given

### NATIVE SPECIES INVENTORY

Riparian Native species Inventory for 150+ flora has been derived suitable for Thamirabarani

### RIPARIAN REGION DEVELOPMENT



Year round Active & Passive Recreation

Greenway Corridors along the river bank to walk and to bike.

Ecosystem restoration by de-silting the wetlands and stabilising it with Afforestation of native species thereby Enhancing Biodiversity

500 m Nature Trail for educational and tourism campaigns, for increased public awareness.

### POLICY INTERVENTIONS:

1. Zero Tolerance Policy for combined sewer overflows
2. River bank Protection Policy, from -encroachment, -foreign species, -unnaturalised shorelines, -direct waste discharge -dumping of wastes.
3. Zero Plastic Pollution Policy
4. Promotion of green roof with FSI & Tax incentives
5. Mandatory rainwater harvesting
6. Green proofing Govt Buildings
7. Permeable streets Policy
8. Water quality Milestones
9. Overflow Action Days Ordinance
10. Alignment with "Blue-Green Policy of Delhi 2041"

### INTERVENTION 1: INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVISATION

Proposal of Road Improvisation, Channel Improvisation and Water front corridors with blue green interactions; Detail implementation in pilot project

Intervention 1	Pilot Project	Total in study area
V-Drain Roads	1.346 km	4.30 km
V Drain pipe Roads	3.928 km	6.73 km
Retention Boulevards	3.385 km	22.3 km
Green Streets	10.02 km	105.7 km
Retention Alley	16.62 km	112.9 km
Urban Canal	1.194 km	8.35 km
Urban Creek	1.773 km	9.14 km
Water Front Corridor	4.285 km	9.13 km

### INTERVENTION 2: CONSTRUED WETLANDS

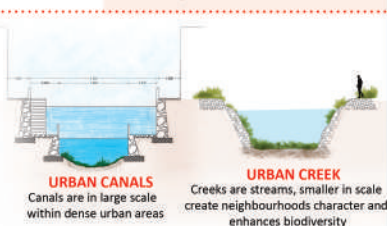
Proposal of 6 units of Constructed Wetlands is given to treat the sewage treatment gap of 7.77 MLD existing in M.Corp.

Total Area of the CWs= ~ 111000 Sq.m  
Area of all Vertical Beds = ~ 95500 sq.m  
A single CW unit treats 600 MLD  
Phase 1= 2 CWs; Phase 2= 4 CWs  
Total Cost Estimated 24 Crores  
Use of Napier Grass for native species usage

### INTERVENTION 3: RETENTION BASINS

Basin	Capacity	Area	Depth
1	191436 Cu.m	31906 Sq.m	~ 6.0 m
2	143577 Cu.m	93508 Sq.m	~ 4.5 m
3	191660 Cu.m	38332 Sq.m	~ 5.0 m

Proposal of 3 Retention Basins are given from the discovery of three disappeared waterbodies using the LULC Change detection analysis. Cost 20 Crores.



**URBAN CANALS**  
Canals are in large scale within dense urban areas

**URBAN CREEK**  
Creeks are streams, smaller in scale create neighbourhoods character and enhances biodiversity

### BGI-GREEN STREET WITH LAKE SECTION

Green Streets are proposed as upstream connections to Burst roads or retention area. They have combination of small channel, stormwater planters and permeable pavings

### RETENTION BOULEVARDS

Retention Boulevards incorporate large, green depressed medians that detain and retain stormwater while allowing regular street traffic. They require more space in the ROW and are recommended in underutilised arterial roads

### BURST ROADS

V-Drain Roads with and without pipes, ensure water will flow in middle of road and drain them into retention area

### RETENTION ALLEYS

Typically located in upstream or vulnerable low-lying areas detention with Bioswales, planters, permeable pavings



View showing Urban Social Oasis in the Urban Canal Improvisation