

## Green Alleys



Photo credit: The Trust for Public Land

There are 900 linear miles of alleys in Los Angeles, which combined would make up about 3 square miles—about half the size of Griffith Park and twice the size of New York's Central Park. Scattered throughout the city in neighborhoods, commercial zones, downtown, and L.A.'s industrial areas, the alleys, for the most part, are ignored.

So why not transform these uninviting, concrete corridors into safe, green, community spaces? The Trust for Public Land is doing just that. Partnering with the City of Los Angeles' Community Redevelopment Agency, Bureau of Sanitation, the University of Southern California's Center for Sustainable Cities, Jefferson High School and others, we're re-purposing several neighborhood alleys into vibrant, outdoor areas. Improvements include:

- Light colored paving to reduce the heat island effect;
- Cross walk striping, lights, and signage to encourage pedestrian use and increase workability;
- Native and drought tolerant planting to help green and beautify the neighborhood;
- A host of innovative techniques to capture and infiltrate storm water from nearby alleys and streets.