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STORMWATER REPORT

Stormwater Lessons From the Past

As climate change continues to challenge what we know about precipitation and flooding, stormwater professionals can gain useful insights for the future by looking toward the past. This edition of [Stormwater Report](#) covers two studies that review nearly a century of hydrological history under the lens of climate change. Both studies provide new context to guide stormwater management in a warming world. It also details new ways cities are learning lessons about resilience from each other as well as new opportunities to exchange knowledge with peers.

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addressing
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Fast-Evolving Plants Undermine Flood Resilience in Chesapeake Bay

In marshes lining Chesapeake Bay, the common plant species known as chairmaker's bulrush plays a crucial role in protecting the coastline against the effects of sea-level rise. According to new research that compares modern bulrushes with those grown from seeds preserved since the 1930s, the root systems of these plants are growing progressively shallower over time. [Learn more about what this evolutionary trend means for climate change resilience in Chesapeake Bay](#).



Why Las Vegas is Experiencing More Flooding Despite Stable Precipitation



During the last 70 years, new research explores how rapid urbanization and regional climate change trends have built upon one another to make the Las Vegas Valley one of the most flood-prone areas in the U.S. — despite being one of the driest. [The study suggests that flood season in the southwest U.S. is shifting from summer to winter, a change that data suggests is intensifying the severity of flood events](#).

Los Angeles 'Green Alleys' Promote Safety, Stormwater Management

Los Angeles is joining a growing number of U.S. cities leveraging green infrastructure to transform dilapidated alleyways into attractive and functional community spaces. These green alleys address both social

and environmental challenges, featuring permeable surfaces and vegetation as well as safety features and public art. [Get a glimpse of Los Angeles' latest set of green alleys, set to open later this month.](#)



[***Make Your Voice Heard on Integrated Planning***](#)

The Water Environment Federation's Integrated Planning Task Force needs your help! Please complete this short survey to give us a better sense of the stormwater sector's awareness of integrated planning, understand obstacles to its adoption, and identify opportunities to surmount them. [Help guide the task force's activities by completing the 10-minute Integrated Planning Survey.](#)

[***March 14: 'A Deep Dive Into Stormwater' Webcast***](#)

An upcoming webcast co-organized by WEF and the Rural Community Assistance Partnership (RCAP) will cover the basics of stormwater, provide a regulatory and policy overview, review common best practices on runoff management, and share a case study of a rural community's efforts regarding stormwater management. [Register today for the webcast, which will take place March 14.](#)



[***2023 MS4 Awards to***](#)



Open Mid-April

The submission period will open in mid-April for the 9th-annual National Municipal Stormwater and Green Infrastructure Awards, also known as the MS4 Awards program. The initiative, established by WEF and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, recognizes MS4 permittees who meet and exceed regulatory requirements in a manner that is both technically effective as well as financially efficient. Prepare for this year's submission period by [reviewing last year's winners](#) and [learning more about the program](#).



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