What could nature near transit look like in Chicago? We studied 3 international nature-based solutions (NBS) to find out. These case studies offer real-life examples of enhanced stormwater retention and biodiversity that could work in the Windy City.

Each project involved the revitalization of public land and successful collaboration among many organizations, such as local government, government agencies, nonprofits, universities, activist groups, and for-profit companies.

Importantly, community members were engaged throughout each process via direct conversation and outreach efforts. Existing infrastructure, the local landscape, and community demographics were all considered to bring lasting value to residents and the environment.

Learn more about these three international NBS and their potential applications in Chicago below.

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**Hoopla Garden**  
**London, England**  
Hoopla Garden sits on publicly owned land next to Stop H on the high-frequency 322 bus route. Community members were surveyed about potential project sites, and The Edible Bus Stop® designed and installed the project, patterning the 15 garden beds and diagonal strips of permeable pavement on the game of quoits (aka “hoopla”). Hoopla Garden seeks to uplift the West Norwood neighborhood and provide more natural space; it is comprised of both ornamental and edible plants that are available to all residents.

**Comparable Chicago location:**  
Albany Park, Kimball Brown Line stop

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**Cuernavaca Railway Linear Park**  
**Mexico City, Mexico**  
This rails-to-trails project was the top finalist among 130 different proposals submitted to the city. The 2.8-mile urban forest was installed along an active railway and connects 22 neighborhoods of varying income levels. Its 37-mile-long bikeway serves as a significant investment in biking and walking infrastructure, and park features help manage stormwater, reduce water scarcity, enhance urban forestry and create a sense of community. All together, the Cuernavaca Railway Linear Park impacts 40,000 residents and, notably, it is the only public green space in an area with increasing land privatization.

**Comparable Chicago location:**  
Back of the Yards, 49th Street viaduct

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**Tibaldi Train Stop**  
**Milan, Italy**  
Located along Milan’s S9 railway, the Tibaldi Train project is part of the CLEVER Cities initiative, a program funded by the European Union. It is the first train station in Italy that combats heat and integrates natural infrastructure to enhance stormwater management and biodiversity. Both residents and commuters were engaged in the design process, and many features – bicycle rack, engraved table with a chessboard, ping pong table, and neighborhood bulletin board – were integrated based on their feedback.

**Comparable Chicago location:**  
East Garfield Park, California & Kedzie Green Line stop

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To read each case study in its entirety, scan the QR code.