Green space accounts for 75% of Gauteng’s total area. Green spaces, trees and ecological networks can provide some key services more effectively, efficiently and sustainably than built infrastructure networks. GCRO’s research will attempt to value the economic contribution of green infrastructure and the cost savings and benefits of investing in natural infrastructure as opposed to traditional engineered systems.

Global examples show that Green Infrastructure planning can alleviate fiscal stress for government, if planned in the same way as other ‘bulk’ services. New York has budgeted $1.5 billion for green infrastructure to 2030. It estimates this will save billions in ‘hard’ infrastructure otherwise required for stormwater management & water purification.

Gauteng businesses involved in growing vegetables, horticulture and nursery specialties have an annual turnover of R70 million! AgriGIS Bizhub figures, 2010

Johannesburg’s urban forest

stores 5.3 million metric tonnes of carbon (equivalent to R766 million) (approximate values as of May 2010)

Brighter shades show higher concentrations of people without access to green space within 1km

Varying access to green infrastructure

24.2% Northern suburbs

6.7% Southern quadrant

Covered by trees

infographics: www.itldesign.co.za

Read more about this project at:
http://www.gcro.ac.za/project/green-assets-and-infrastructures