

Why is Green Infrastructure Important?

- Improved Air Quality
- Reduced Energy Demands
- Improved Water Quality and Quantity
- Additional Wildlife Habitat and Recreation Opportunities
- Improved Human Health
- Increased Land Values

How Can You Support Green Infrastructure in Your Area?

Regionally:

Support efforts to preserve and restore natural landscape features such as forests, floodplains, and wetlands.

Locally:

Initiate practices like rain gardens, backyard habitats, porous pavements, green roofs, infiltration planters, planting trees, and rainwater harvesting for non-potable uses such as landscape irrigation.

Where Can I Find More Information On Green Infrastructure?

The Conservation Fund - Basic Information, Project Examples, and Training Information
www.greeninfrastructure.net

The Green Infrastructure Center - Basic Information, Project Examples, and Other Resources
<http://www.gicinc.org/>

US Environmental Protection Agency - Comprehensive Source for Green Infrastructure Information
http://cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/home.cfm?program_id=298

Wiki Site for Public Information Sharing
<http://www.greeninfrastructurewiki.com/>

For more information:

Log onto the N.C. Division of Forest Resources Web site at
<http://dfr.nc.gov>

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What is Green Infrastructure?

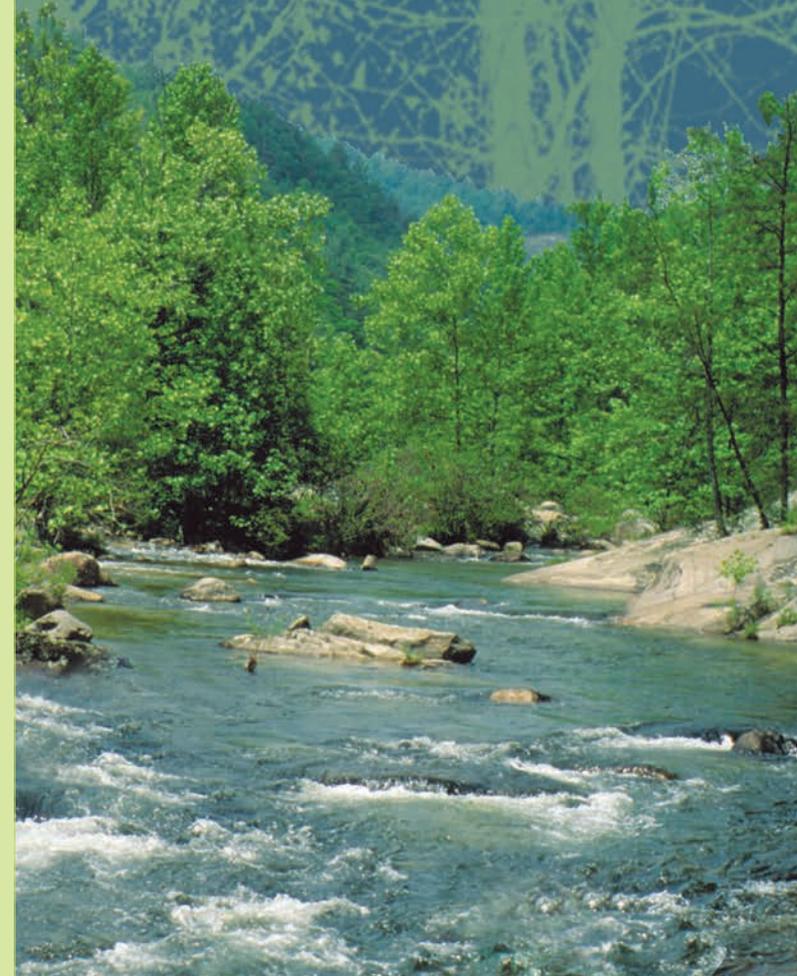




Photo by George Hess

Green infrastructure

is an interconnected network of green space that is planned and managed for its natural resource value and for the associated benefits and services provided to people and communities.

Often undervalued, these “ecosystem services” are the foundation of our lives. Green infrastructure plays a critical role in providing the natural resources (water, land, air, forest, wetlands, etc.) that support our communities, cities, and societies. Without these resources, our basic needs for food, shelter, and raw materials will not be met.

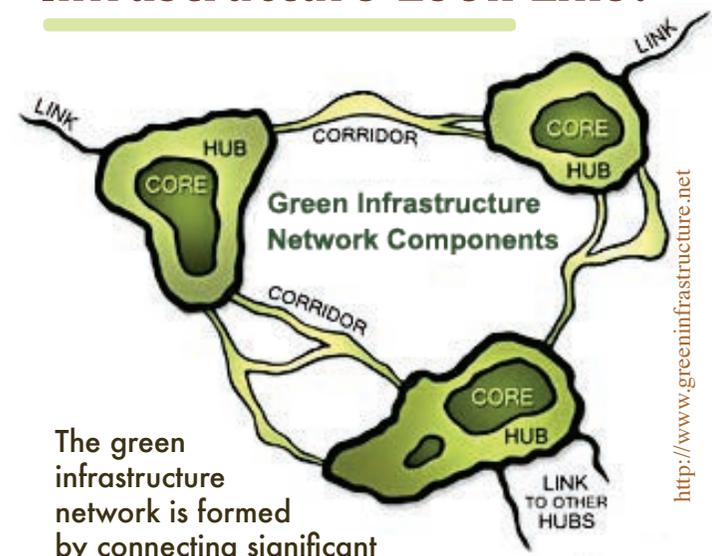


Photo by Chris Moorman

Normally, when we think of infrastructure, it is in relation to our roads and highways, utility lines, or water systems. This is called gray infrastructure and we depend on it to sustain and improve society. We understand that there has to be connectivity for this infrastructure to function successfully. The highways need to be connected to side streets in order for us to get from one place to another and utilities need to be connected to areas where people live to provide them with electricity and water.

Green infrastructure is applying these same concepts of connectivity to trees and the natural system. It is a strategic approach to land conservation, addressing the economic and social impacts of sprawl, fragmented open spaces, and forestland.

What Does Green Infrastructure Look Like?



The green infrastructure network is formed by connecting significant sites (community parks and arboretums) and natural hubs (working lands, state forests, and wildlife refuges) with linkages such as trails and river corridors.

Green infrastructure can be managed at a number of different scales for a multitude of objectives; it is designed to be flexible and adjustable to the needs of current development. Green infrastructure systems can be:

- Protected watersheds that provide safe and dependable drinking water supply for communities;
- Reforested landscapes that help prevent soil erosion and flooding events;
- Planted swales or detention ponds that absorb and filter storm water run-off;
- Greenways that provide year-round recreational opportunities for citizens;
- Private forest land that protects water quality, provides wildlife habitat, and increases ecosystem biodiversity;
- Significant cultural, historic, and natural heritage sites.