

Green Infrastructure Co-Benefits Draft Strategy Paper

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Green Infrastructure in GO TO 2040

- **Regional scale:** increase acres of conservation open space, guided by the GIV
- **Community scale:** improve access to park space for all residents; link regional open spaces to community parks
- **Local scale:** integrate land use and site planning through the use of green infrastructure BMPs for stormwater management



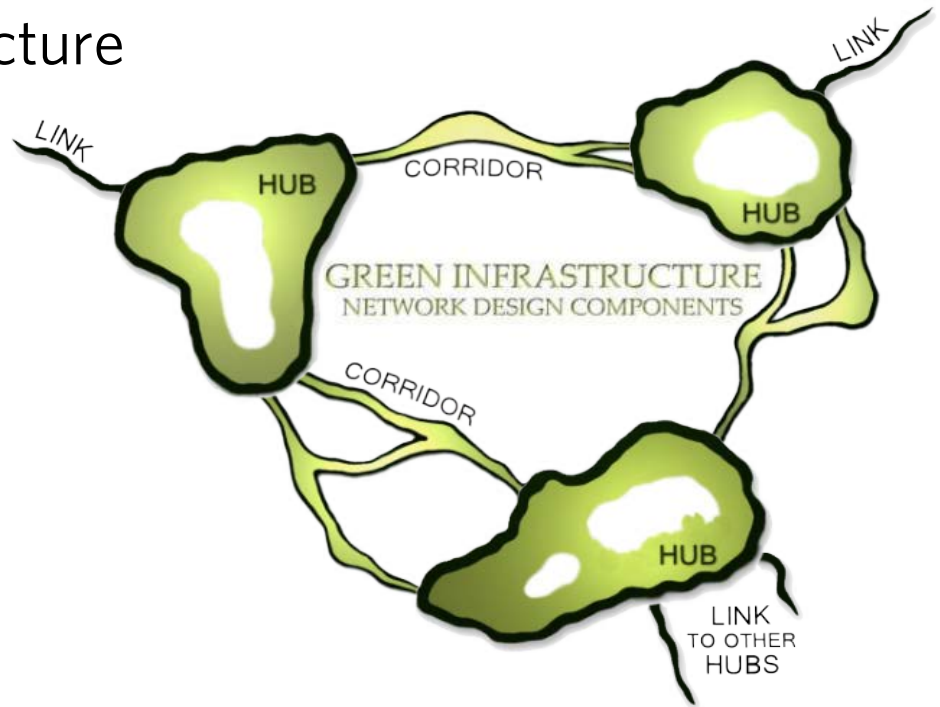
Room for Refinement

- Further explore the intersections between policies at different scales
- Better address green spaces in urban areas, particularly on underutilized lands
- Promote other benefits of green space in addition to recreation
- Ensure that the refined policies can apply to all community contexts



Policy Framework

1. Protect ecological cores
2. Encourage green infrastructure in parks
3. Green hardscapes
4. Account for co-benefits



1. Protect Ecological Cores

- **Identify and protect high-quality landscapes**
 - Identify both existing conditions and aspirational vision as distinct, but related layers
 - Develop a pilot later to identify high quality natural resource areas
 - Explore regional priorities for conservation
- **Provide ecological buffers to enhance core landscapes through strategic placement of community- and site-scale green infrastructure**
 - Tools: Land use planning, subdivision and zoning ordinances, and site design
 - Establish appropriate setbacks, reduce fragmentation, encourage species diversity, reduce or protect buildings in the floodplains, reduce impervious cover, promote infiltration, reduce susceptibility to invasive species



2. Encourage Green Infrastructure in Parks

- **Increase co-benefits provided by parks**
 - Encourage multiple benefits on parkland compatible with public uses
- **Incorporate green infrastructure on non-traditional green spaces**
 - Private lands as ecological corridors or hubs
 - New partnerships and incentive programs are needed to reach new types of landowners
- **Use site-scale green infrastructure when new open space acquisition is not an option**
 - In built-out communities, site-scale green infrastructure on boulevards, parkways, and other landscaping can be designed to provide spaces for recreation, air quality improvement, urban forestry



3. Green Hardscapes

- **Reduce the rate of impervious surface creation**
 - Integrate green infrastructure into infill and reinvestment policies to enhance some of the region's most impervious communities
 - Incorporate green infrastructure design into new construction to minimize new creation of impervious surfaces in growing communities

- **Incorporate site-scale green infrastructure into existing hardscapes**
 - Incorporate green infrastructure into transportation rights-of-way
 - Promote complete streets approach



4. Account for Co-Benefits

- **Assess ecosystem service value of green infrastructure**
 - Data that can help regional partners balance priorities and tradeoffs in the next plan and frame the importance of green infrastructure as part of a thriving region
- **Conduct further research on non-monetary methods of assessing green infrastructure co-benefits**
- **Explore approaches to account for green infrastructure co-benefits in evaluating planning decisions**
 - Promote projects that maximize co-benefits as part of performance-based funding approaches



Next Steps

- Refine strategy paper based on feedback from working committees
- Continue to reach out to regional partners beyond the working committees
- Explore indicators to monitor and evaluate regional progress on green infrastructure policies



For more information

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