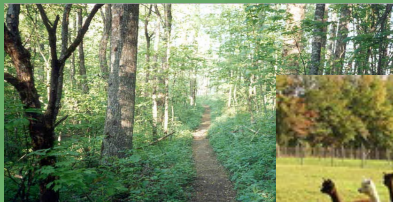


GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING :

A STRATEGIC APPROACH
TO
RESOURCE CONSERVATION

What is Green Infrastructure?

“.....an interconnected green space network that is planned and managed for the natural resources values it provides and for the associated benefits to humans....”



Green Infrastructure's Guiding Concepts:

- ❖ Protect and link parks and open spaces for the benefit of the human community
- ❖ Preserve and link natural areas to benefit biodiversity and reduce habitat fragmentation



The Challenge - Balancing Resource Protection and Growth

- *What should be conserved?*
- *Where should development occur?*
- *Where should roads and utilities be located?*



PLANNING STRATEGIES

Traditional

- First, plan for public utilities - roads, pipes, *grey* infrastructure.
- Green space located in leftover/unbuildable land.
- Green space planning limited to development site – tot lots, internal trails, pocket parks.



Green infrastructure

- First, inventory and assess natural and historic features and functions.
- Develop a protection/management strategy.
- Plan green spaces (parks, trails, habitat connections) **BEFORE** locating built elements.
- Connect habitats across regions and across ownerships.

GREEN versus GRAY

■ Both Require:

- Strategic planning to ensure functional systems
- Financing for design and maintenance
- Management to maintain services



■ Ideally Are:

- Planned simultaneously
- Given equal priority in the planning process
- Planned as complimentary systems
- Equally considered in the funding process

WHY GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE?

- Ecosystem benefits
- Storm water management
- Drinking water protection
- Groundwater recharge
- Support working lands
- Increased property values
- Enhanced quality of life

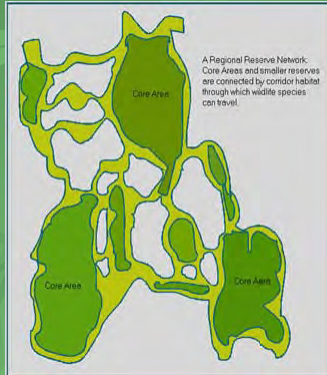


Green Infrastructure Network - A Framework for Informed Decision Making

- Six basic steps:
 - Inventory natural and historic resources;
 - Identify opportunities and constraints;
 - Determine risks to identified resources;
 - Determine community interests and priorities; and
 - Integrate findings and goals into local comprehensive plans and amend local ordinances to reflect identified goals.



Network elements include core areas or hubs along with -



- Riparian areas
- Working lands
- Historic sites
- Parks and trails
- Conservation easements
- Mitigation banks

PUBLIC AWARENESS & CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT ARE CRITICAL TO THE PROCESS



Getting started.....

- Educate
 - Educate
 - Educate...