

U.S. Forest Service Green Infrastructure Initiatives



National Association of Regional Councils
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“Caring for the land and serving people”

Mission Statement:

Sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation’s forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations.



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- ✓ USDA Secretary Vilsack's vision for an "All Lands" approach to the stewardship of America's forests.
- ✓ Landscape Scale Conservation to:
"Make our forests more resilient to climate change while protecting water resources, improving forest health, and creating new jobs...."



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“Green Infrastructure is our Nation’s natural life support system – an interconnected network of protected land and water that supports native species, maintains natural ecological processes, sustains air and water resources, and contributes to the health and quality of life of America’s communities and people.”



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Green Infrastructure can also be understood as a strategic landscape approach to open space conservation, whereby local communities, landowners, and organizations work together to identify, design, and conserve the land network essential for maintenance of healthy ecological functioning.



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Open Space Conservation Strategy

<http://www.fs.fed.us/openspace/>

“Cooperating across boundaries to sustain working and natural landscapes.”

Goals include:

- ✓ Expanding and connecting open spaces in cities, suburbs and towns,
- ✓ Reducing the potential impacts and risks of development.



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Support for Green Infrastructure

- ✓ Late 1990's Green Infrastructure Network
- ✓ Training program coordinated by The Conservation Fund (TCF)
- ✓ Continuing partnerships with NARC and TCF to support national, regional and state training and workshops
- ✓ Green Infrastructure Community of Practice



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Support for Green Infrastructure

- ✓ Forest Service Research, State and Private Forestry, National Forestry System
- ✓ State Forestry Agencies
- ✓ National Agroforestry Center
- ✓ Western Forestry Leadership Coalition



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Support for Green Infrastructure

- ✓ National Urban and Community Advisory Council
- ✓ Challenge Cost-Share Grant Category
- ✓ Green Infrastructure Assessment
- ✓ proposals for a “road-map” that describes how various agency programs, particularly federal programs, intersect, overlap, or support each other in green infrastructure planning.



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Sustainable and Livable Communities

- ✓ Interagency Partnership for Sustainable Communities: White House, HUD, DOT, EPA Memorandum of Understanding
 - ✓ affordable housing
 - ✓ transportation planning
 - ✓ community livability
 - ✓ environmental protection



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Sustainable and Livable Communities

- ✓ Livable Communities Act of 2009.
- ✓ Interagency Council on Sustainable Communities
- ✓ Comprehensive Planning Grants
- ✓ “conduct or update housing, infrastructure, transportation, energy, and environmental assessments to determine regional needs and promote sustainable development.”



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