

Integrating Green Infrastructure and Transportation Planning

Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission, Virginia

Total Cost: \$155,731, FHWA Share: \$77,833

Period of Performance: 36 months, Dates: May 20, 2008 – May 20, 2011

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Project Goals

The Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission (TJPDC) *Eco-Logical* project is to develop a green infrastructure plan to connect transportation, development, and natural resource plans in the five-county planning district.

Project Activities

In the past year, TJPDC completed a green infrastructure study and gained support for the study by all of the TJPDC member governments. The MPO incorporated environmental analysis from the green infrastructure study into its recently adopted LRTP.

Key Accomplishments

This *Eco-Logical* project has allowed TJPDC to bring diverse stakeholders together to seek shared priorities. The project team hopes that conversations started during the stakeholder meetings will create a forum for transportation and environmental agencies to come together.

Challenges

The project team foresees challenges relating to an active environmental community. TJPDC worries that the environmental community may over-identify mitigation and impact sites, causing conflict with other groups in the area. TJPDC also anticipates that regulatory agencies will apply narrow standards to determine appropriate mitigation sites. TJPDC hopes to overcome these challenges by working with agencies to focus on overall priorities and adopt a broader perspective.

Future Steps

TJPDC believes that the green infrastructure plan will not only help the planning district to enhance their infrastructure but it will also improve the quality of life in the region.

As next steps, TJPDC will overlay transportation projects on the green infrastructure data and identify potential impact and mitigation areas. After the overlay is complete, TJPDC will hold meetings with local governments, regulatory agencies, and other public groups to present and discuss the impacts and mitigation opportunities identified in the overlay. The goal of these meetings will be to achieve consensus on the mitigation opportunities.

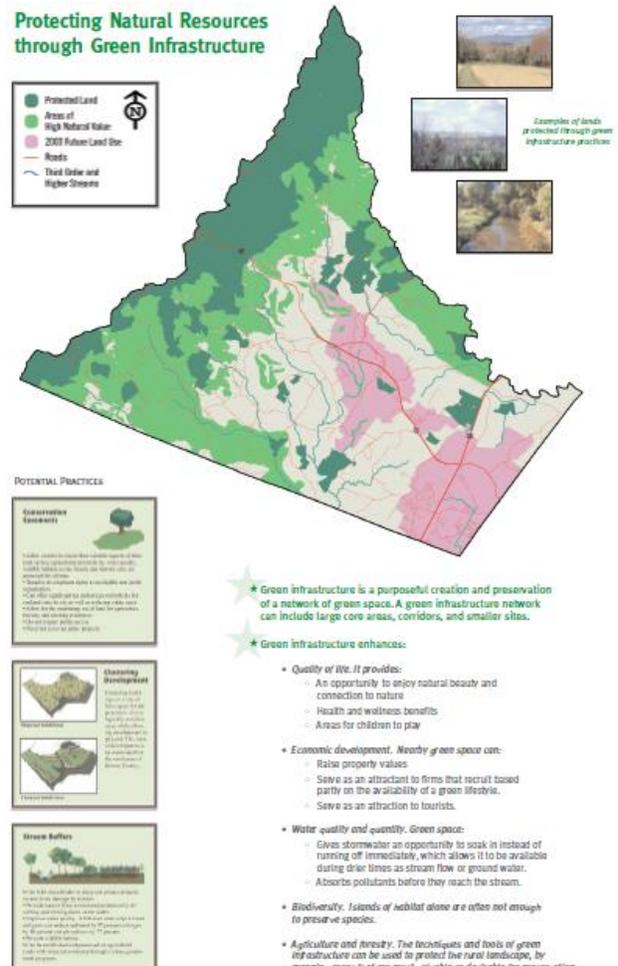


Figure 15: A page from the TJPDC Green Infrastructure Study.