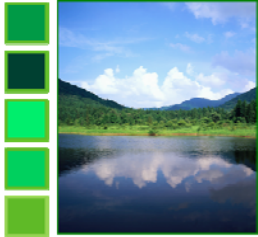




# NATIONAL GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE CONFERENCE 2011



FEBRUARY 23-25, 2011

## Green Infrastructure Action Planning

The audience attending the Action Planning portions of the 2011 National Green Infrastructure Conference was asked to provide their opinion to the following statements in an effort to seek consensus on broad-scale principles related to process and application issues associated with green infrastructure.

We provide this data to you, as while not overly scientific, the audience was very diverse in terms of geographic locations, areas of expertise, scales of GI planning, and professional affiliation – in short, we believe the audience was representative of green infrastructure practitioners in the U.S., and encourage you to use the data as appropriate for your work and organization.

### Action Planning Part I: Developing Principles for GI Concepts and Implementation

Green Infrastructure Planning is applicable at all scales—site/parcel, urban, regional, and landscape scales.

Multiple Choice	Number of Responses	Percent of Total
Strongly Agree	144	82.76%
Agree	28	16.09%
Disagree	1	0.57%
Strongly Disagree	1	0.57%
Totals	174	100%

Funding for GI planning, implementation, and long-term management should become a routine consideration by policy-makers at all levels of government similar to grey infrastructure.

Multiple Choice	Number of Responses	Percent of Total
Strongly Agree	146	84.39%
Agree	26	15.03%
Disagree	1	0.58%
Strongly Disagree	0	0%
Totals	173	100%

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Funding and financing strategies should be proactively considered for all scales of GI.

Multiple Choice	Number of Responses	Percent of Total
<b>Strongly Agree</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>67.05%</b>
Agree	45	25.57%
Disagree	9	5.11%
Strongly Disagree	4	2.27%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>100%</b>

As a best practice, GI planning should occur with the knowledge and active involvement of a broad array of both traditional and non-traditional stakeholders.

Multiple Choice	Number of Responses	Percent of Total
<b>Strongly Agree</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>72.41%</b>
Agree	45	25.86%
Disagree	2	1.15%
Strongly Disagree	1	0.57%
<b>Total</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>100%</b>

Green Infrastructure encompasses both the preservation of high quality resources as well as restoration and management activities.

Multiple Choice	Number of Responses	Percent of Total
<b>Strongly Agree</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>77.78%</b>
Agree	34	19.88%
Disagree	3	1.75%
Strongly Disagree	1	0.58%
<b>Total</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>100%</b>

Once a network design has been established, it should be used as a framework/tool for choosing mitigation projects.

Multiple Choice	Number of Responses	Percent of Total
<b>Strongly Agree</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>51.46%</b>
Agree	67	39.18%
Disagree	15	8.77%
Strongly Disagree	1	0.58%
<b>Total</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>100%</b>

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## Action Planning Part II: Developing Principles for Application

The audience attending the Action Planning Part II portion of the 2011 National Green Infrastructure Conference was asked to provide their opinion to the following statements in an effort to seek consensus on broad-scale principles related to the application and value of green infrastructure.

**As a best practice, GI projects should be designed to ensure that physical access to green infrastructure amenities for recreational and quality of life purposes is available for all members of the community, to the extent practicable.**

Multiple Choice	Number of Responses	Percent of Total
<b>Strongly Agree</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>71.07%</b>
Agree	40	25.16%
Disagree	4	2.52%
Strongly Disagree	2	1.26%
<b>Total</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>100%</b>

**GI as a best practice should be planned to facilitate the appreciation and support of a broad diversity of cultures, customs, and heritages; and overall livability and sustainability in its application, to the extent practicable.**

Multiple Choice	Number of Responses	Percent of Total
<b>Strongly Agree</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>63.69%</b>
Agree	46	29.30%
Disagree	5	3.18%
Strongly Disagree	6	3.82%
<b>Total</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Green Infrastructure should be used as a tool to achieve multiple ecosystem benefits to the extent practicable.**

Multiple Choice	Number of Responses	Percent of Total
<b>Strongly Agree</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>86.88%</b>
Agree	17	10.62%
Disagree	1	0.62%
Strongly Disagree	3	1.88%
<b>Total</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>100%</b>

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## Action Planning Part III: Identifying Next Steps and Needs

The audience attending the Action Planning Part III portion of the 2011 National Green Infrastructure Conference was asked to provide their ideas for next steps and/or strategic planning actions for the Green Infrastructure Community of Practice and others to move forward as part of the future of green infrastructure. Listed below are the transcribed comments of the participants sharing in the discussion. Comments were not deleted or modified. We encourage you to add to this list!

**Audience Prompt: What incentives can be provided at the federal, state, and local level to actively facilitate GI planning/implementation?**

### GI & Governmental/Legislative Processes

Develop Federal partnerships across many agencies for green infrastructure—public land managers, departments of transportation, defense

**Potential Action:** Identify and implement demonstration projects

Increase involvement/collaboration with Department of Education and HUD in green infrastructure discussions and projects

**Potential Action:** Invite Department of Education to GI COP meeting

Get green infrastructure into political processes (bills, funding)

**Potential Action:** GI CoP to assist in providing communication about potential advocacy opportunities related to green infrastructure so that members can show their support

Reconfigure legislative processes to bundle investment for infrastructure for the greatest multiple benefits. There is no Green Infrastructure bill; other bills are easy to disassemble because they don't have the multiple benefits that GI does;

**Potential Action:** We must advocate for the inclusion of GI in legislation, and develop a strategy that will advocate investment in GI even though the benefits of GI can be considered valuable to multiple agencies.

Acknowledge that local and regional governments are key to the advancement of green infrastructure projects and plans (the national level will take too long to implement)

Look for opportunities to align statutes from the Clean Water Act with the use of Green Infrastructure

Develop incentives to create comprehensive green/gray infrastructure plans at the state and local levels—develop incentives for comprehensive plans to include green infrastructure components at all levels of government

Integrate GI Planning into plans currently being worked on and/or adopted at the local/regional level. For instance green infrastructure planning may be integrated with county comprehensive plan updates; climate change adaptation planning; floodplain mitigation planning; transportation planning; recreation and tourism planning; housing development planning; TMDL planning, etc. Comprehensive planning could become more marketable to local elected officials and commission; also comprehensive planning may allow GI planning to occur even with limited funding.

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## **GI & Communication/Marketing/Branding**

Develop tools for communicating the multiple scales of green infrastructure, and develop a message for a diverse audience; green infrastructure can mean a lot of different things for a lot of different people.

Create an explicit brand for green infrastructure as an integrator and a way to make things more efficient, especially for regulated entities. Green Infrastructure should market its selling points—multiple benefits, addressing regulatory requirements through the Clean Water Act

Each Green Infrastructure professional should take personal responsibility as an ambassador and information bridge, and continue to build relationships to promote green infrastructure

Take advantage of the modernizing government and governance, ie Nashville city and county are combined. Many states are now creating incentives to consolidate services and governments - GI should benefit from this consolidation.

## **GI & Funding**

Develop a funding strategy—Use tax relief incentives at all levels of government, especially federal and state for the implementation of green infrastructure

Develop a fee utility similar to stormwater to finance Green Infrastructure—an opportunity to leverage green infrastructure to create an incoming revenue stream to create an integrated system as a unified utility.

Create funding incentives similar to those at the State- and Federal- level that can be replicated at the local level—build greater public awareness for green infrastructure and build collaboration on- the-ground at the local/community level.

Leverage FEMA's alternative project funding to act as springboard for green infrastructure planning as well as floodplain management

Develop an award program to celebrate successful/innovative programs—provide funding/awards after successful implementation for continued success

Commit percentage of military budget to the protection of green infrastructure for our national security and the resiliency of the built infrastructure, especially as the climate changes—Green Infrastructure can protect the governmental investment we have on the built environment

Look for opportunities to enhance green infrastructure incrementally, look beyond program plans and take advantage of funding opportunities for those projects that can happen now—Insert the Green Infrastructure context into already funded projects as well.

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## **GI & Education of our Future Stewards**

Expose college-students to the ideas of green infrastructure before they enter professional fields—all levels of education can incorporate green infrastructure elements in curriculums

Develop internships with specific focus on green infrastructure planning and develop a portal that can communicate these opportunities with students

## **GI & Information/Experience Sharing**

Create resources for communities to identify parcel-level data—necessary to have good GIS data resources, especially for communities looking to implement their own GI plans

- Parcel-based data should be tied to property records for “real” local government applications. See Multipurpose Cadastre as exists in the world's other industrialized countries.

Nurture and jointly manage all geographic information technologies (remote sensing, GIS, GPS) to cost effectively maximize GIS potential for GI applications.

Pull together a national green infrastructure assessment from national datasets

Share knowledge/data and information nationally as models for others to follow—i.e. Maryland Green Highways Pilot Program

Continue to share and disseminate information with international partners so that we can learn from their strategies—Look to the European Commission’s funding strategies for Green Infrastructure

Create database of information on the on-going monitoring and evaluation of GI projects and disseminate information to policy-makers—Similar to the datasets collected by stream restoration projects that are based on scientific information and monitoring

The Healthy Watersheds Initiative (EPA) encourages collaboration across levels of government, agencies, and local organizations to map Green Infrastructure. It can help with resources and collaboration, and has some competitive grants available. The goal of the initiative is to map and assess watersheds across the country, state-by-state and identify Green Infrastructure and high quality areas for protection.

Create a connected system of riparian corridors as a National Insurance Program

## **GI & Partnerships/Collaboration**

Develop partnerships at the landscape level to create green infrastructure plans that look to link trans-continental highway corridors with rail corridors as major transportation corridors and protect natural resource corridors—look to Korea as an example.

Form a collaboration of green infrastructure professionals to participate in the US Global Change Research Program—Green Infrastructure professionals much join the discussions on climate change

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Look for opportunities to develop stewardship plans with landholders of existing forests for the protection of forests and green infrastructure in the future

Now, more than ever, the field feds need to be nurtured, educated, aided and rewarded for reaching out to locals. Work with locals can't be "other duties as assigned", it needs to be part of educational programming as well as job descriptions, evaluations, and promotion criteria to be real.