

(RE)CONNECT: THE WASATCH FRONT GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN

WHAT IS GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE?

Green infrastructure is an interconnected network of natural and social systems such as rivers, trails, lakes, wildlife habitat, working lands, and parks, and open space.

WHAT IS GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING?

Green infrastructure planning differs from conventional approaches to land conservation or natural resource protection because it looks at landscape ecology in concert with human geography and demographics. Green infrastructure conserves natural ecosystem functionality, sustains clean air and water, and provides a wide array of benefits. This comprehensive approach brings together diverse stakeholders to help form a common planning approach.

“Just as we must carefully plan for and invest in our capital infrastructure-our roads, bridges, and waterlines, we must invest in our environmental or green infrastructure-our forests, wetlands, streams, and rivers.”

- Parris Glendening, Former Maryland Governor

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

(Re)Connect is a planning tool that can be used by regional councils, municipalities, transportation agencies, natural resource agencies, and others to incorporate green infrastructure planning into longer range initiatives. The Plan places a strong emphasis on implementation and identifies strategies that can be used by resource agencies, private foundations, cities, counties, and other local or state agencies for updating master plans, transportation plans, or watershed plans. Green infrastructure implementation strategies exist at various scales from site-specific, such as a community garden, to regional, such as a watershed restoration project.

GOALS

(Re)Connect establishes four regional planning objectives to fulfill the green infrastructure mission and project goals. These objectives will allow for a more integrated, consistent, and comprehensive approach to land planning actions and decision making in the Wasatch Front. These four objectives are: regional leadership, stakeholder communication and cooperation, coordinated resource management and stewardship, and management plan and policy updates.

PRODUCTS

(Re)Connect created two products. The first is the plan itself. The Plan can guide land development and acquisition decisions, funding allocations, and local and regional planning processes. The second product is a set of Asset Network Maps to help determine which lands can accommodate growth and which lands are better suited to protect, preserve or conserve.

PARTNERS

(Re)Connect identified 20 plus implementation actions to be accomplished. The WFRC seeks to work with members of *(Re)Connect*'s Executive Committee, Governor's Office of Management and Budget, Utah Forestry Fire and State Lands, US Forest Service, and the Center for Green Infrastructure Design, and other interested persons in order to implement the planning objectives and implementation actions to ensure the sustainability and livability of this plan within the broader context of the Wasatch Choice for 2040 Vision.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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