

# GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE CENTER

## Working Together

Each of the Center's projects is undertaken in close collaboration with the communities and local governments that we work with. The projects are built on a foundation of community outreach and engagement. Where appropriate, Center projects can also be inter-jurisdictional, bringing together localities and organizations to address regional green infrastructure opportunities and challenges.

The Center also benefits from strong working relationships with federal and state agencies, foundations, and private-sector organizations. Our partners include departments of forestry, agriculture, and conservation, park and recreation agencies, historic resource departments, land conservation organizations, and corporations, developers, and utilities.

The Green Infrastructure Center is a non-profit organization located in Charlottesville, Virginia. The Center was formed in 2006 to help communities and local governments develop strategies to restore, manage, and protect their ecological, economic, and cultural resources through environmentally-sensitive planning and decision-making.

The Center provides planning services, conducts research, publishes guidance, and conducts educational and restoration activities for communities.

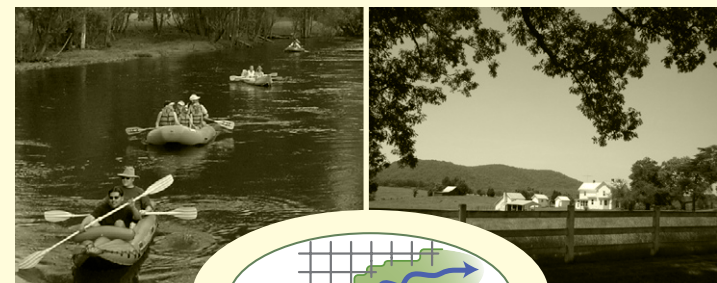
Please visit us online at [www.gicinc.org](http://www.gicinc.org) or contact us for more information.



CONNECTING COMMUNITIES  
ACROSS THE LANDSCAPE



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# GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE SUPPORTS HEALTHY COMMUNITIES....

*Everyone depends on Earth's ecosystems and the services they provide.*

[www.gicinc.org](http://www.gicinc.org)



## Assisting Communities and Local Governments

The Green Infrastructure Center helps communities and local governments restore, manage, and protect the everyday places – the natural resources and working landscapes – that provide our clean water and air, ensure our quality of life, and sustain our economy.

The Center works in rural, suburban, and urban areas to identify and conserve the critical ecological systems – our green infrastructure – that create healthy communities for people and nature. The Center uses an innovative approach to land use planning that integrates natural and human environments to maximize both ecological and economic returns.

Communities and local governments are the vital links in this effort. Today, more than 39,000 localities are responsible for managing 70 percent of all land resources in the United States.

## Enhancing Planning Capacities

Our nation's rich green infrastructure resources include our forests, waterways and bays, soils, wildlife areas, wetlands, dunes, historic landscapes, and parks.

Green infrastructure is woven throughout our towns, cities, and subdivisions as well as our mountains and valleys. **Green infrastructure planning provides an opportunity for communities to approach land use planning in a new way.** It enables these “green” resources to be taken into account alongside population growth projections, tax revenue estimates, and traditional infrastructure and capital improvement costs.

The result is better land use planning: local and regional strategies that coordinate development and growth opportunities with our networks of critical ecological systems.

## Providing New Tools, Enabling New Insights

The Center's green infrastructure planning process provides a suite of tools – economic analysis, mapping, and land use planning and asset assessment. Process steps include:

- an inventory of ecological, economic, and cultural resources
- identification of opportunities to enhance and protect these resources
- development of a coordinated green infrastructure planning strategy

For each project, the Center uses innovative models and mapping techniques that translate data into compelling visual information. The Center's approach enables communities to look at information in fresh ways, resulting in new connections, opportunities, and insights.

## ...AND OUR GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE IS AT RISK.

*Over the past 50 years, humans have changed ecosystems more rapidly and extensively than in any comparable period of time in human history.*