

Richmond Regional Planning
District Commission
Task # 12.08
Annual Report

November 15, 2010

This project was funded by the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program at the Department of Environmental Quality through Grant #NA10NOS4190205 of the US Department of Commerce National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, under the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, as amended.

Town of
Ashland
Counties of
Charles City
Chesterfield
Goochland
Hanover
Henrico
New Kent
Powhatan
City of
Richmond



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Product #1: Interim Report

During the initial stage of the development of the green infrastructure project, Richmond Regional Planning District Commission staff spent considerable time working with the City of Richmond staff, Green Infrastructure Center and E², and the Virginia Department of Forestry to develop a detailed scope of work. The scope details not only what is expected to be accomplished, but which organization was responsible for various elements for an urban green infrastructure asset inventory. It was imperative that the data and analysis prepared by the Green Infrastructure Center (GIC) and the Virginia Department of Forestry could be used by the PDC as part of the initial asset inventory. In addition, phase II of this project was being planned so that GIC could continue detailed analysis and assist the City in defining priorities.

A series of meeting and conference calls were held among the project partners to finalize the details of the project's scope of work throughout the autumn and winter of 2009 and 2010. The final scope of work was finalized in January of 2010.

The scope of work includes participation by community stakeholders, and work with Crater PDC staff to develop a scope of work that describes how Crater PDC staff will work with rural localities within the Crater PDC to develop locality-specific blue/green infrastructure implementation policies and strategies, and/or education programs.

A copy of the detailed scope of work is included in Appendix A.

Product #2: GIS Data and Mapping for the City of Richmond

RRPDC staff worked with the City of Richmond staff and GIC staff, the green infrastructure project team, to identify and map blue and green infrastructure assets and develop final blue and green infrastructure asset maps that are included in the Urban Green Infrastructure Asset Assessment Model Report (see Product 4). The project team communicated regularly by email and phone, and held meetings approximately every two months to track progress accomplished on the project. Draft theme maps discussed at a project team meeting are included in Appendix B; these maps are also included in the Urban Green Infrastructure Asset Assessment Model Report in Appendix H.

Appendix C includes a presentation given during a project team meeting in April in which the green infrastructure theme maps created by RRPDC staff are integrated into work accomplished by the GIC on vacant parcels in the City of Richmond. This presentation provides an indication of how useful the end products of the work accomplished by the RRPDC and the GIC will be to green infrastructure implementation in the City of Richmond.

As an outcome of the Richmond Regional PDC and other team member's mapping analysis and discussions about implementing measures, *Growing Richmond's Green Infrastructure Green Infrastructure Toolkit brochure* was created by GIC and E² staff for the City of

Richmond as a reference document on the physical options of green infrastructure implementation. A copy is included in Appendix D

Data included on the green infrastructure theme maps was provided by the RRPDC, the City of Richmond, and numerous departments of the Commonwealth of Virginia. Some new data sets were created by RRPDC staff with input from City of Richmond staff; these data sets include community gardens, “green alley” improvements, “green street” improvements, and green roofs. For more information on these data sets and others used for mapping and analysis, see the Urban Green Infrastructure Asset Assessment Model Report in Appendix H. These maps and the analysis included in this report will be used by the city to implement blue/green infrastructure.

RRPDC staff also used urban tree canopy GIS data produced by the Virginia Department of Forestry. In addition to analysis of the urban tree canopy of the entire city, the selected project study area, and specific parcels chosen with the help of the project team; PDC staff performed a land cover analysis of each Council District in the City of Richmond. The results of this analysis are included in Appendix E.

Product #3: Rural Green Infrastructure Asset Implementation

RRPDC staff and Crater PDC staff worked with rural locality staffs to develop and present locality-specific presentations describing the role of green infrastructure and highlighting possible implementation measures. For interested localities, RRPDC staff provided presentations to the local planning commission on the benefits of and local implementing strategies for blue/green infrastructure. RRPDC staff also presented a region-wide presentation to its governing board comprised of both rural and urban elected leaders and planning commissioners.

In response to rural interest in blue-green infrastructure implementation, Crater PDC organized a regional workshop. Members of local Planning Commissions and Boards of Supervisors were invited as well as members of environmental stakeholder organizations and the general public.

The following are dates and short descriptions of each presentation. Full copies of the RRPDC presentations can be found in Appendix F. The agenda from the Crater PDC Green Infrastructure Workshop can be found in Appendix G.

January 14, 2010	Charles City County Planning Commission meeting
March 17, 2010	Goochland County Planning Commission meeting
July 14, 2010	Town of Ashland Planning Commission (this presentation was also videotaped and broadcast on the local government television station)
July 20, 2010	Chesterfield County Planning Commission
July 29, 2010	Crater PDC Green Infrastructure Workshop

Product #4: Urban Green Infrastructure Asset Assessment Model

RRPDC staff documented the work and processes used by the City of Richmond green infrastructure project team to identify and analyze blue/green infrastructure assets for the City of Richmond. RRPDC staff has recorded this methodology in the Urban Green infrastructure Asset Assessment Model Report. This report includes the steps taken, the data utilized, and the resource agencies consulted during this work for the City of Richmond. The report can serve as a “how-to” cookbook with methodology that may be used by other cities and towns to develop an asset inventory, perform analysis on that inventory, and formulate preliminary implementation measures. The final report is included in Appendix H.