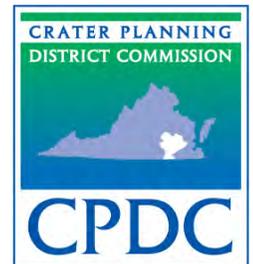


Appendix A



**Central Virginia Conservation
Corridor and Sustainable Community
Planning Project**

— Interim Report —

January 1, 2010

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Project Overview

Year 1/Phase I of this multi-year project was focused on identifying and mapping natural resource features that were included in a bi-regional, prioritized green infrastructure overlay and conservation corridor system that was depicted in a widely distributed report. Year 2/Phase II of this project has a dual focus on green infrastructure implementation in rural and urban areas in the Richmond and Crater regions. For the urban focus, RRPDC staff will work with the City of Richmond staff and Green Infrastructure Center staff to identify and map blue and green infrastructure assets and develop final blue and green infrastructure asset map(s) to be used by the city to implement blue/green infrastructure. For the rural implementation focus, RRPDC and Crater PDC staff will provide educational training opportunities for rural localities to learn about green infrastructure and its implementation.

Project Partners

As in Phase I of the project, the Richmond Regional Planning District Commission (RRPDC) has joined with the Crater Planning District Commission (Crater PDC). Planning District Commissions (PDCs) are governmental subdivisions of the Commonwealth of Virginia; PDCs serve as regional planning agencies for their constituent localities. The Richmond Regional PDC has also joined with the Green Infrastructure Center, Inc. in Charlottesville, Virginia. The Green Infrastructure Center (GIC) is a non-profit organization that assists communities in developing strategies and tools for preserving green infrastructure resources. The GIC has obtained funding to use the City of Richmond green infrastructure asset assessment that will be completed by RRPDC staff as an input into further analysis including an in-depth look at the role that vacant parcels can play in the City for both, economic development and expansion of the existing green infrastructure network. This latter work by GIC will be briefly described in the Scope of Work Summary Chart below. For more detailed information on the project(s) of the Green Infrastructure Center, see their website at www.gicinc.org.

The RRPDC and the Green Infrastructure Center have been able to assist the City of Richmond by brokering an agreement with the Virginia Department of Forestry (DOF) to perform an analysis of the City of Richmond's urban tree canopy. The product of this analysis will include a GIS land cover data set and a report detailing the distribution of tree canopy across the city, among parcels in the city, and among the various zoning districts in the city.

Note: The Green Infrastructure Center has an agreement with E² Inc. under which the staffs from the two organizations work jointly on projects. E² is a for-profit business that supports the Green Infrastructure Center through this joint work effort. E² staff will help perform work on this project.

TASK 1: Urban GIS Mapping

RRPDC staff will perform much of the GIS data management, creation, and mapping with

existing data at the RRPDC and data supplied by the City of Richmond or various departments of the Commonwealth of Virginia. Where necessary, GIC staff will provide advisory assistance in the mapping of green infrastructure assets and the creation of a city-wide green infrastructure framework series of maps for use in the Urban Green infrastructure Asset Assessment Model Report. RRPDC staff, GIC staff, and City of Richmond staff will create a green infrastructure project team. The project team will inform work efforts as they progress. The aim of the committee is to ensure that local planning input is seriously considered in the green infrastructure mapping and planning effort. The final maps will be used by PDC staff, City of Richmond staff, and GIC staff to identify and analyze green infrastructure assets in the City of Richmond.

TASK 2: CITYgreen Analysis

CITYgreen Overview: CITYgreen software is an extension for ArcGIS software that allows the user to perform analysis of land cover data to determine and quantify the ecosystem services of trees. RRPDC staff will use CITYgreen software to run analysis estimating the pollution reduction benefits and dollar value benefits of trees in the City of Richmond.

Virginia Department of Forestry Urban Tree Canopy: Through a partnership with the Virginia Geospatial Extension Program at Virginia Tech's Department of Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation, the DOF has agreed to map the urban tree canopy resources in the City of Richmond. This GIS data will be utilized by the RRPDC and GIC in the mapping and analysis of the City of Richmond green infrastructure assets. The land cover GIS data set product from this work will be used in CITYgreen analysis performed by the RRPDC for the City of Richmond. For more information on urban tree canopy analysis of Virginia localities, please see the following website: http://www.cnr.vt.edu/gep/va_utc.html.

CITYgreen City of Richmond Study Area Analysis: A project team of staff from the RRPDC, the GIC and the City of Richmond will determine criteria for selecting a study area for further analysis, including, CITYgreen analysis. These criteria may include location within the City, demographics, potential for accommodating improved residential growth in the City, possessing a wide range of green infrastructure implementation options, etc. The urban tree canopy land cover data set produced by DOF will serve as the base data for analysis. Once an analysis of the existing land cover has been performed, RRPDC staff will analyze a series of land cover scenarios based on general recommendations for urban tree canopy.

CITYgreen Parcel-Based Analysis: RRPDC staff will work with City of Richmond staff to select specific parcels for further CITYgreen analysis. In addition to an analysis of existing conditions, a series of development scenarios as informed by the City of Richmond's 2000-2010 Comprehensive Plan or Richmond Downtown Plan and zoning ordinance will be analyzed.

TASK 3: Urban Green Infrastructure Asset Assessment Model Report

The maps and analysis conducted by and for the project team will be summarized in a report produced by RRPDC staff for the City of Richmond. The report will include green infrastructure asset maps, CITYgreen analysis, and examples of green infrastructure planning implementation tools.

TASK 4: Rural Implementation

RRPDC and Crater PDC staff will provide educational presentations describing the nature of green infrastructure and general tools for green infrastructure implementation. PDC staff will offer these presentations to all member localities and provide them to those interested.

Scope of Work Summary Chart:

Task	Timeframe	Participants				
		RRPDC	City of Richmond	GIC	Crater PDC	DOF
Inquire with local governments about interest in green infrastructure	Throughout	X			X	
Provide educational presentations on green infrastructure	Throughout	X			X	
Finalize scope of work	October 2009 - January 2010	X	X	X	X	X
Build City of Richmond project team	January 2010	X	X	X		
Map existing green infrastructure resources in the City of Richmond	January 2010 - June 2010	X	X	X		
Map and analyze City of Richmond urban tree canopy	April 2010 - August 2010					X
Develop parcel-scale inventory of vacant lands with currently available data from the City of Richmond	January 2010 - March 2010			X		
Characterize vacant land inventory with available information such as size, ownership current uses, etc.	January 2010 - March 2010			X		
Determine a Study Area for CITYgreen analysis using criteria designated by the project team and run analysis	June 2010	X	X	X		
Determine parcels within Study Area for CITYgreen analysis	July 2010	X	X			
Determine a Focus Area for characterization maps depicting vacant properties and existing green infrastructure assets*	June 2010	X	X	X		
Prepare RRPDC Green Infrastructure Urban Asset Report for City of Richmond, including implementation recommendations	July 2010 - September 2010	X	X			
Prepare GIC series of characterization maps depicting vacant properties and green infrastructure assets	July 2010 - September 2010			X		
Guideline toolkit for green infrastructure implementation	September 2010 - October 2010			X		

* The boundaries of the GIC Focus Area differ slightly from the RRPDC Study Area due to technical analysis considerations.