

**PROGRESS REPORT (FINAL)**  
**FOREST SERVICE GRANT / AGREEMENT**  
**NO. 11-DG-11132544-130**

Period covered by this report: 04/21/11 – 9/20/13

**Issued to:** Virginia Tech

**Address:** 1880 Pratt Drive, Ste. 2006; Blacksburg, VA 24060

**Project Name:** Green Infrastructure Assessment: Mapping and Evaluating the Support System for Green Infrastructure Planning in the United States

**Contact Person/Principal Investigator**

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**Web Site Address (if applicable):** [www.greeningthegrey.org](http://www.greeningthegrey.org)

**Date of Award:** 4/21/11

**Grant Modifications:**

**Date of Expiration:** 9/30/13

**Funding: Federal Share:** \$217,014 plus **Grantee Share:** \$ 217,014 = **Total Project:** \$434,028

**Budget Sheet:**

**FS Grant Manager:** Nancy Stremple

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**Project abstract (as defined by initial proposal and contract):**

Since the mid-1990s, the idea of green infrastructure has spread rapidly, and numerous and diverse stakeholders now practice green infrastructure planning at multiple scales nationwide. To build the capacity of the national network of green infrastructure practitioners, including the Green Infrastructure Community of Practice (GI CoP), and encourage a positive evolution of the green infrastructure movement into the mainstream, Virginia Tech and the National Association of Regional Councils (NARC) propose a

two-year project to conduct a comprehensive assessment of the institutional support system for green infrastructure planning and implementation in the United States. The project will produce a series of specific deliverables, including a Final Report and “road map” that will 1) describe the current state of practice and existing support system for green infrastructure planning, including how the system is perceived by key stakeholders such as planners, funders, and decision makers that will approve these plans and 2) evaluate opportunities for improving the support system for green infrastructure planning at multiple scales, including specific recommendations at the national level. We will distribute the findings, especially the Final Report, to a national audience of professional planners, government agencies and policymakers at multiple levels to inform the decision making process.

**Project objectives:**

1. Describe the current state of practice and existing support system for green infrastructure planning, including how the system is perceived by planners and other key stakeholders
  - Phase I – Concurrent national & local level horizontal assessments
  - Phase II – Vertical assessment between national & local levels established in Phase I
2. Evaluate opportunities for improving the support system for green infrastructure planning at multiple scales, including specific recommendations at the national level
  - Phase III – Analysis & development of appropriate outreach products

**Objectives met successfully to-date:**

- Objective 1: Phase I and II are complete
- Objective 2: Phase III is complete

**Additional objectives in progress:**

**Objectives not yet met:**

**How will this project increase the knowledge we have about urban forestry? How will the public benefit?**

- Urban forestry is a critical element of green infrastructure implementation and management. Developing a better understanding of the institutional support system that promotes and supports green infrastructure on the ground will have major impacts on urban forestry as a field and profession.
- Providing, protecting, and enhancing ecosystem services in human dominated ecosystems is a valuable attribute of green infrastructure, but its implementation relies on effective facilitation by governing institutions. This project will provide a more comprehensive sense of how that institutional support system is currently functioning, and opportunities for strengthening it.

**How will the results be disseminated to the public?**

Phase III of this project identified the most effective and practical combination of tools and products for disseminating the results of this research while also advancing the practice of green infrastructure in the United States. In addition to developing a web-based platform ([www.greeningthegrey.org](http://www.greeningthegrey.org)) which will serve as an ongoing dissemination and engagement forum, we developed a series of content modules that feature case studies on effective network formation and framing of green infrastructure to achieve multiple purposes, tools to identify federal resource streams, tools for building green infrastructure networks, etc. Results have been distributed through a series of classroom trainings, online learning modules, webinars, workshops and meetings, and conference sessions. A final report documenting the key findings of the study are available online via the [greeningthegrey.org](http://greeningthegrey.org) and partner websites such as [cligs.org](http://cligs.org) and [narc.org](http://narc.org) and more broadly via a social media campaign including Facebook and LinkedIn outlets.

**Has the project met the projected timeline of accomplishments? Is the project on schedule? Is the project ahead of schedule? Is the project behind schedule? If a no-cost time extension has been requested for this project, why is (was) it needed?**

The project has met the projected timeline of accomplishments. The project was completed on schedule.

**List the active partners (key individuals or organizations) involved in the project to-date:**

- Virginia Tech
- National Association of Regional Councils
- Environmental Finance Center (University of Maryland)

**Comments considered of importance but not covered above:**

On US Forest Service recommendations, we worked closely with the Environmental Finance Center at the University of Maryland as they were awarded a complementary grant to examine financing strategies for green infrastructure. This collaborative arrangement worked very well as many synergies and opportunities for efficiency and cooperation emerged throughout the project timeline.

**This report was prepared by:**

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**Date:** December 20, 2013