

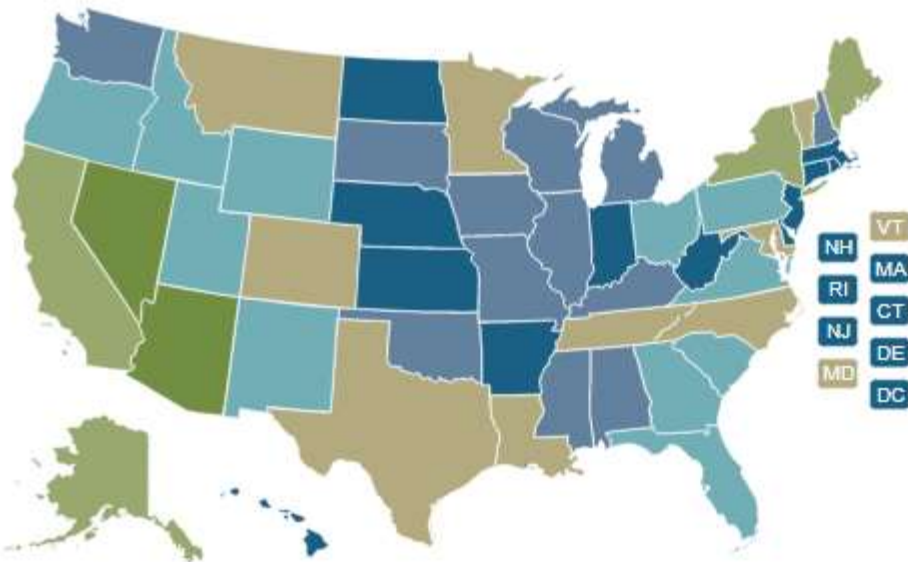
# Framing An Urban Agenda for Nature

**23<sup>rd</sup> Annual RMLUI Conference**  
**Thursday, March 14, 2014**

**Will Allen**  
**Director of Strategic Conservation Planning**

— THE —  
CONSERVATION FUND

THE  
CONSERVATION FUND



**OVER 7,000,000+ ACRES SAVED**



## Parks With Purpose

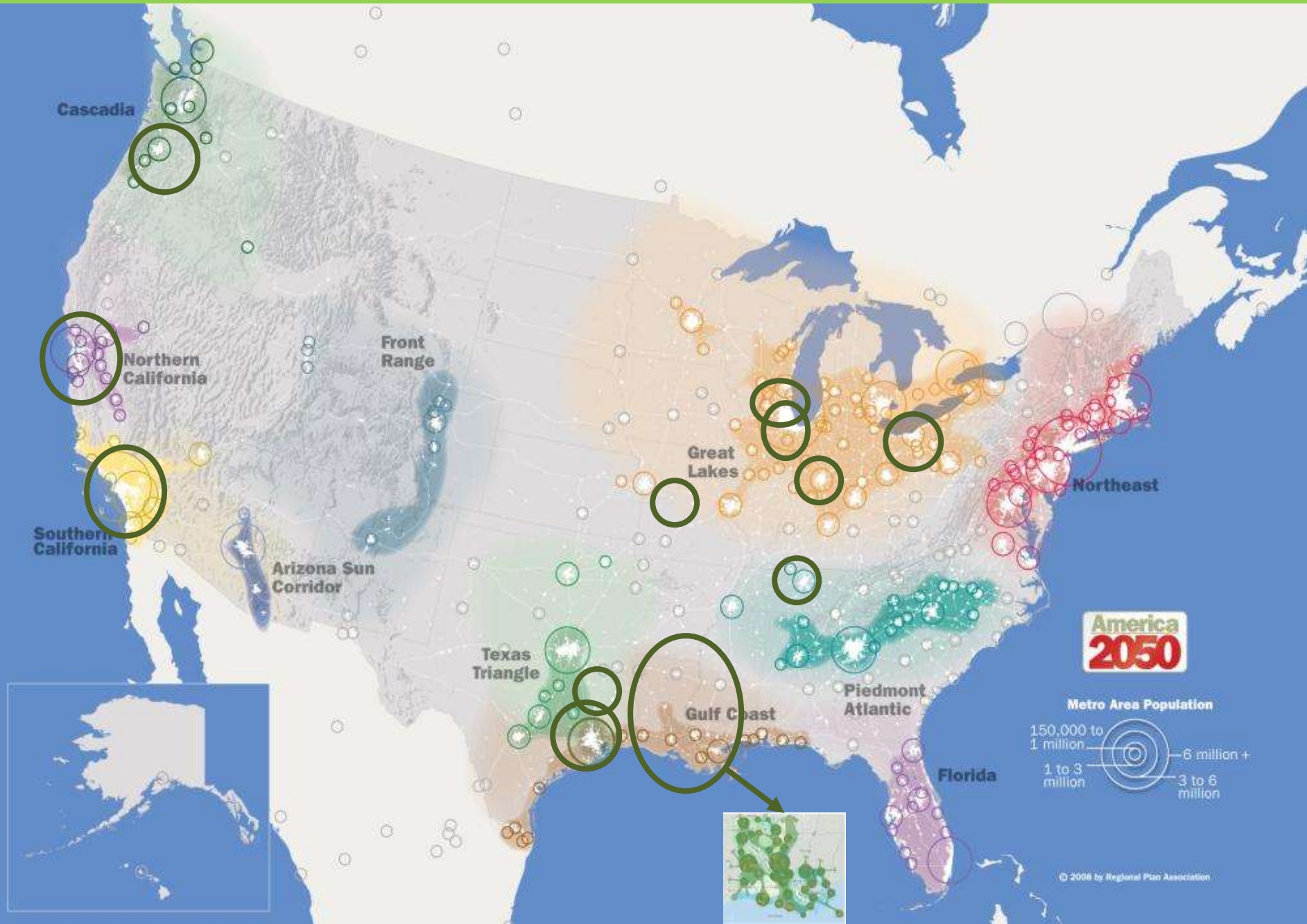


Emma Millican Park in Atlanta, Georgia. Photo by Stacy Funderburke/The Conservation Fund



Wordle™

# Megaregions Need Nature

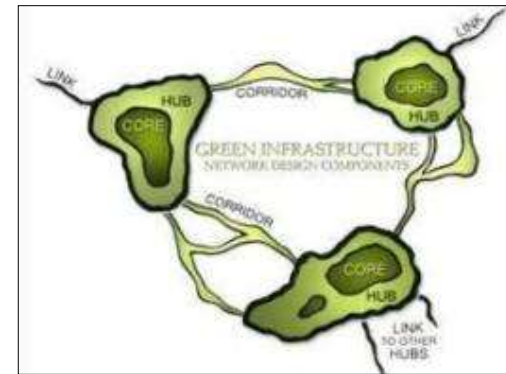
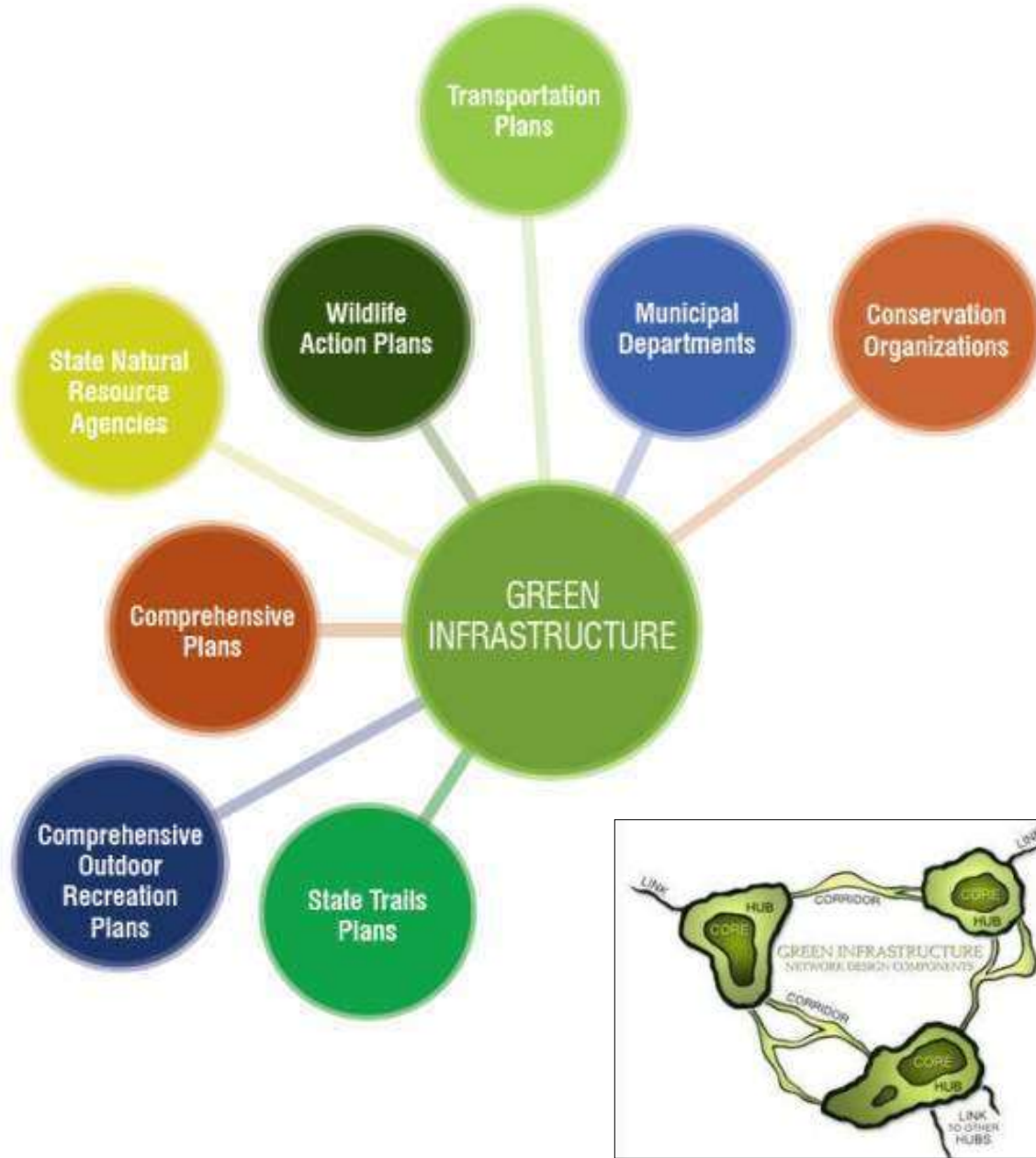


# Green Infrastructure – Linking Megaregions & Large Landscapes

## Regional Green Infrastructure Vision

PROTECT  
RESTORE  
CONNECT

## MULTIPLE BENEFITS



# METROPOLITAN GREENSPACES ALLIANCE

Chicago  
Wilderness



HOUSTON  
WILDERNESS



THE  
INTER  
TWINE

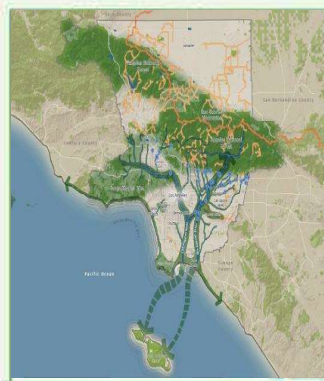


SOUTHEASTERN  
WISCONSIN  
WATERSHEDS  
TRUST, INC.



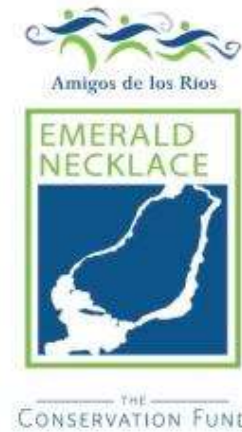
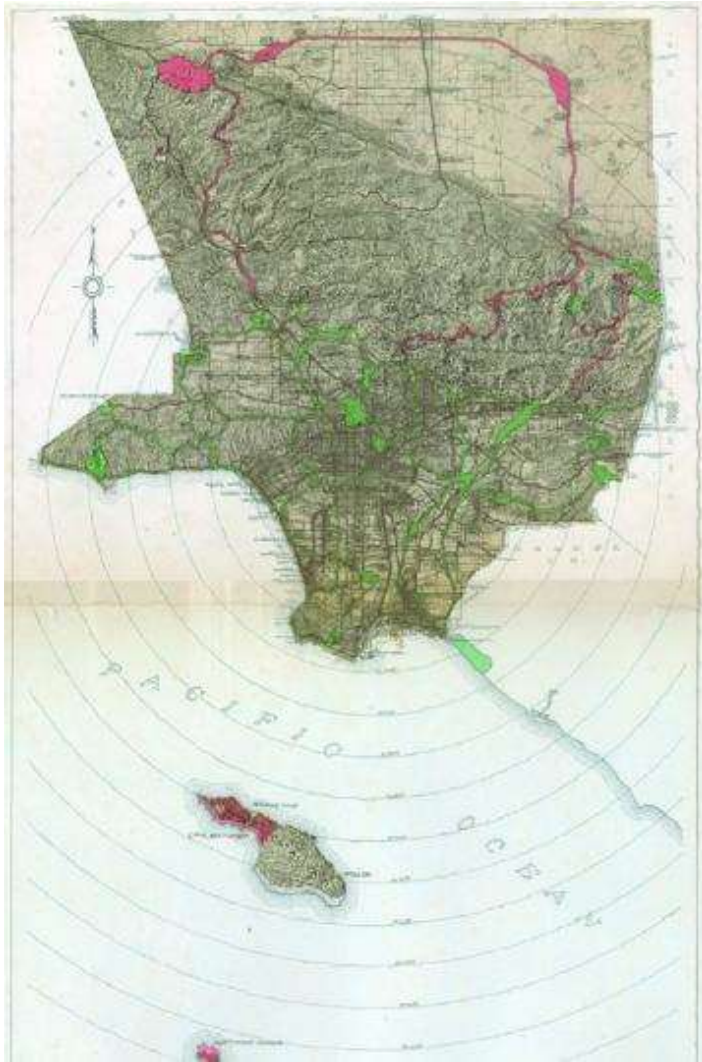
BAY AREA  
OPEN SPACE COUNCIL

- Cities and their regions as ecosystems
- Common vision
- Coalitions shape priority green infrastructure investments
- Collaboration and collective action

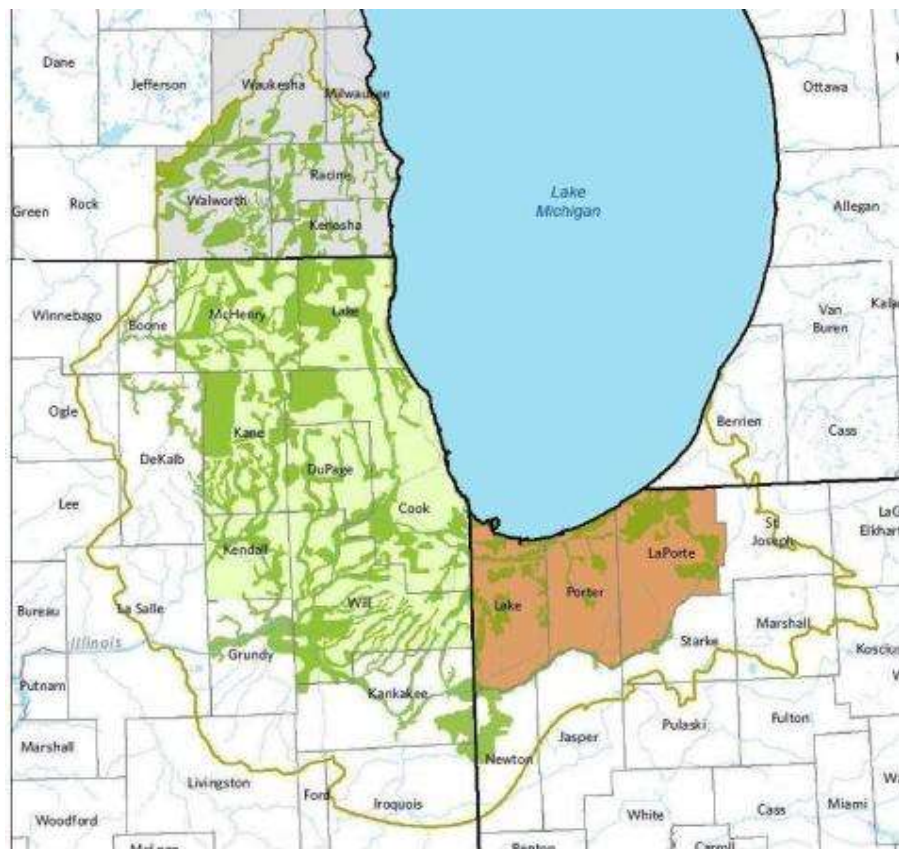


# Los Angeles County: From the Mountains to the Sea, Forest to Ocean

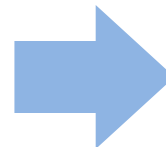
Olmsted Brothers and Bartholomew  
& Associates, Los Angeles County  
Department of Public Works. Parks,  
Playgrounds, and Beaches for the  
Los Angeles Region, 1930



# Chicago Wilderness Green Infrastructure Vision



GIV version 1 - 2004



GIV version 2 - 2012

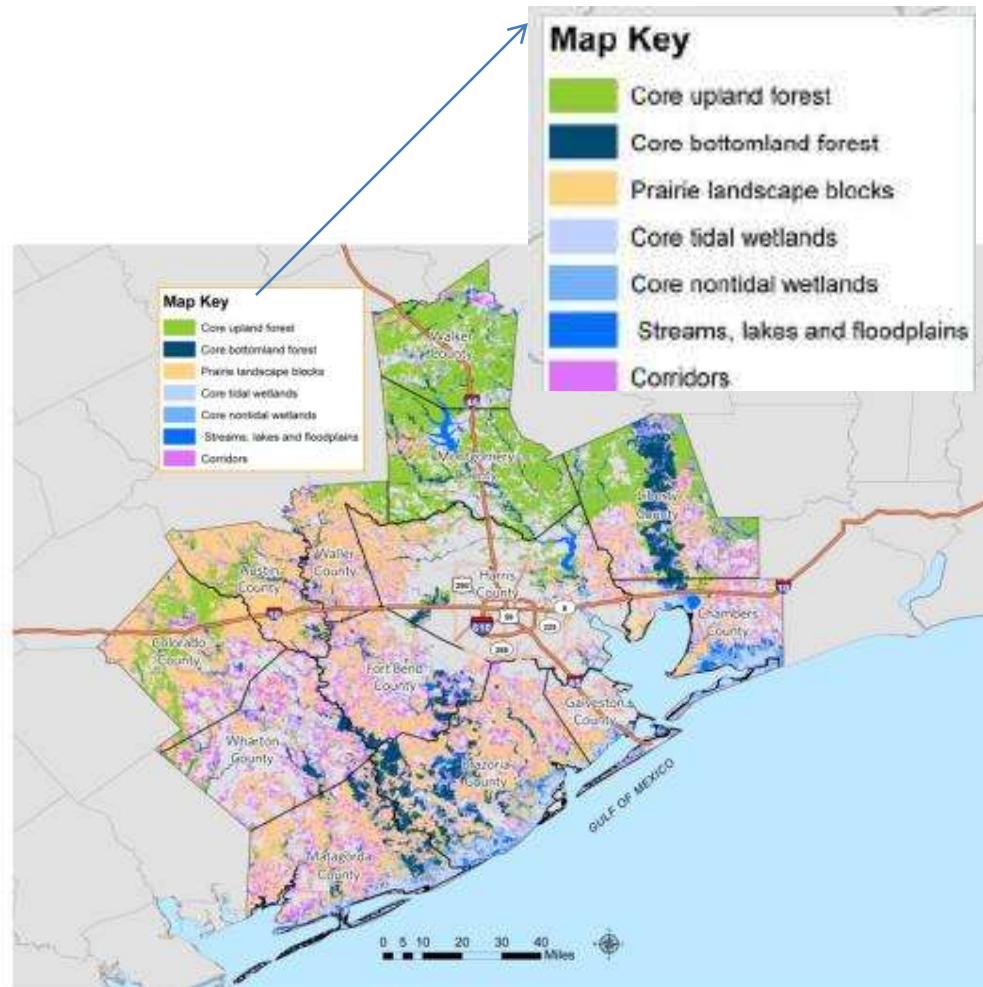
Chicago  
Wilderness



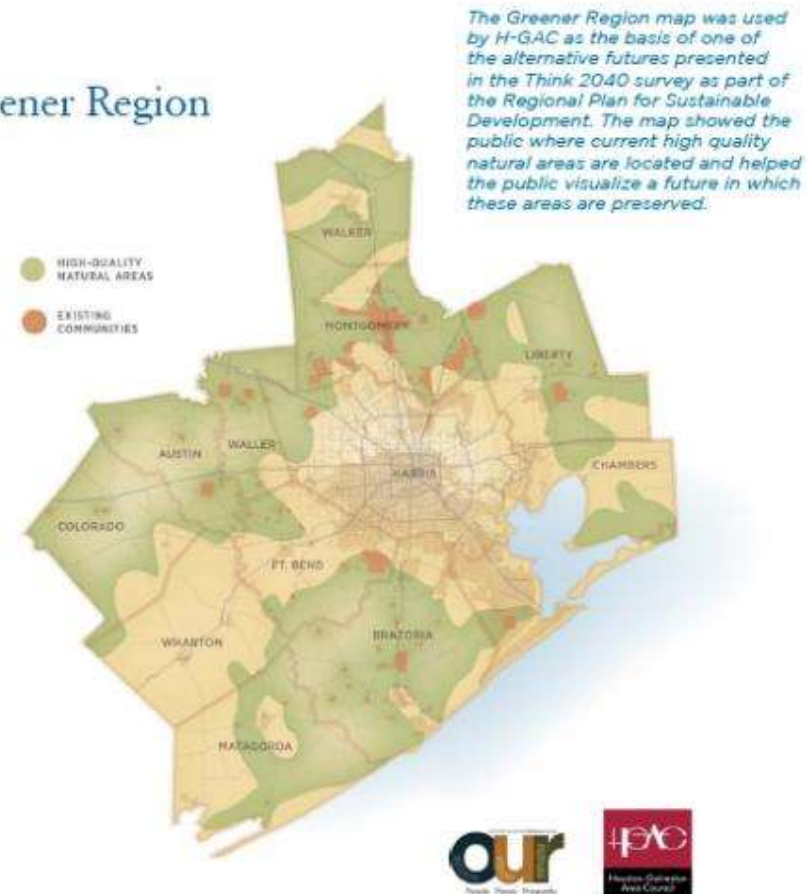
GREENING Infrastructure

# Houston-Galveston Green Infrastructure & Ecosystem Services

- **13-County GI Network provides ~91% of benefits for water quality, air quality, water supply, flood protection, and carbon sequestration.**

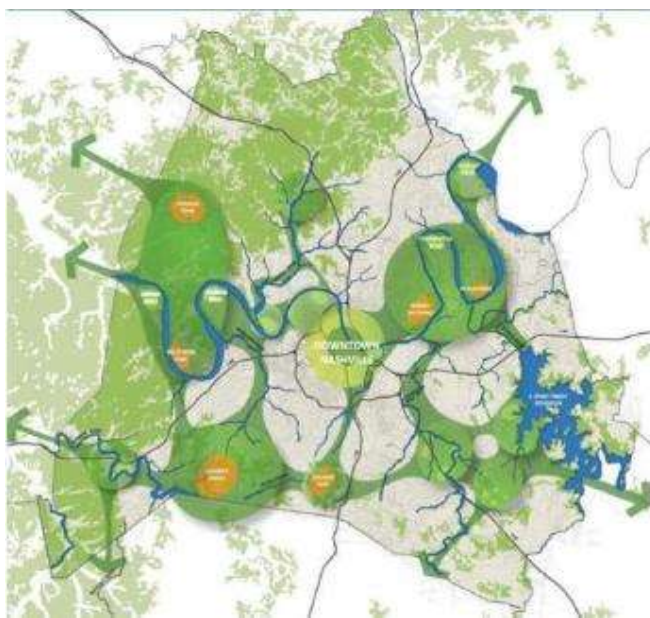
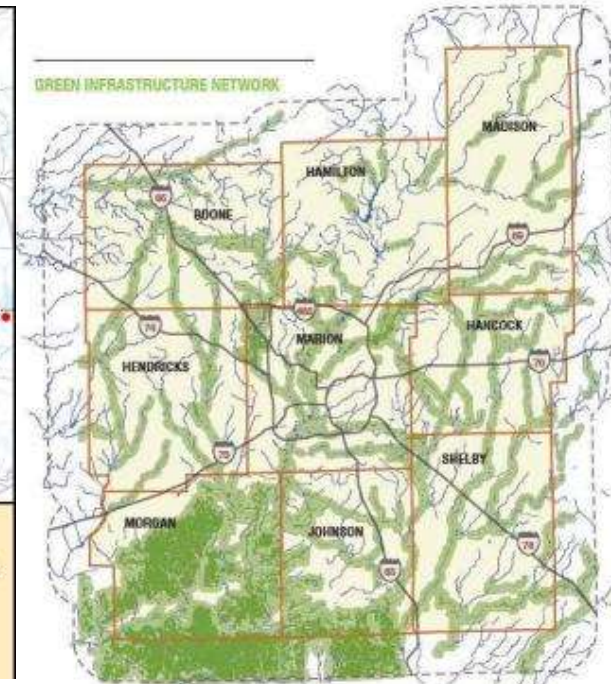
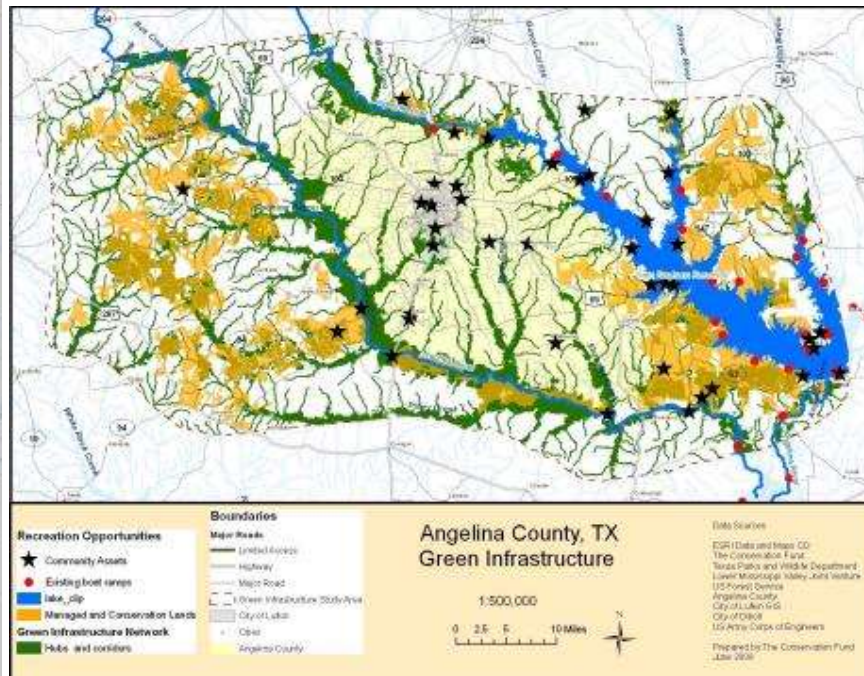


## Greener Region



# Other Metropolitan Greenspace Initiatives

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Columbia MO | Lufkin TX | Central Indiana  
Milwaukee WI | Nashville TN



# National Agenda for Urban Conservation

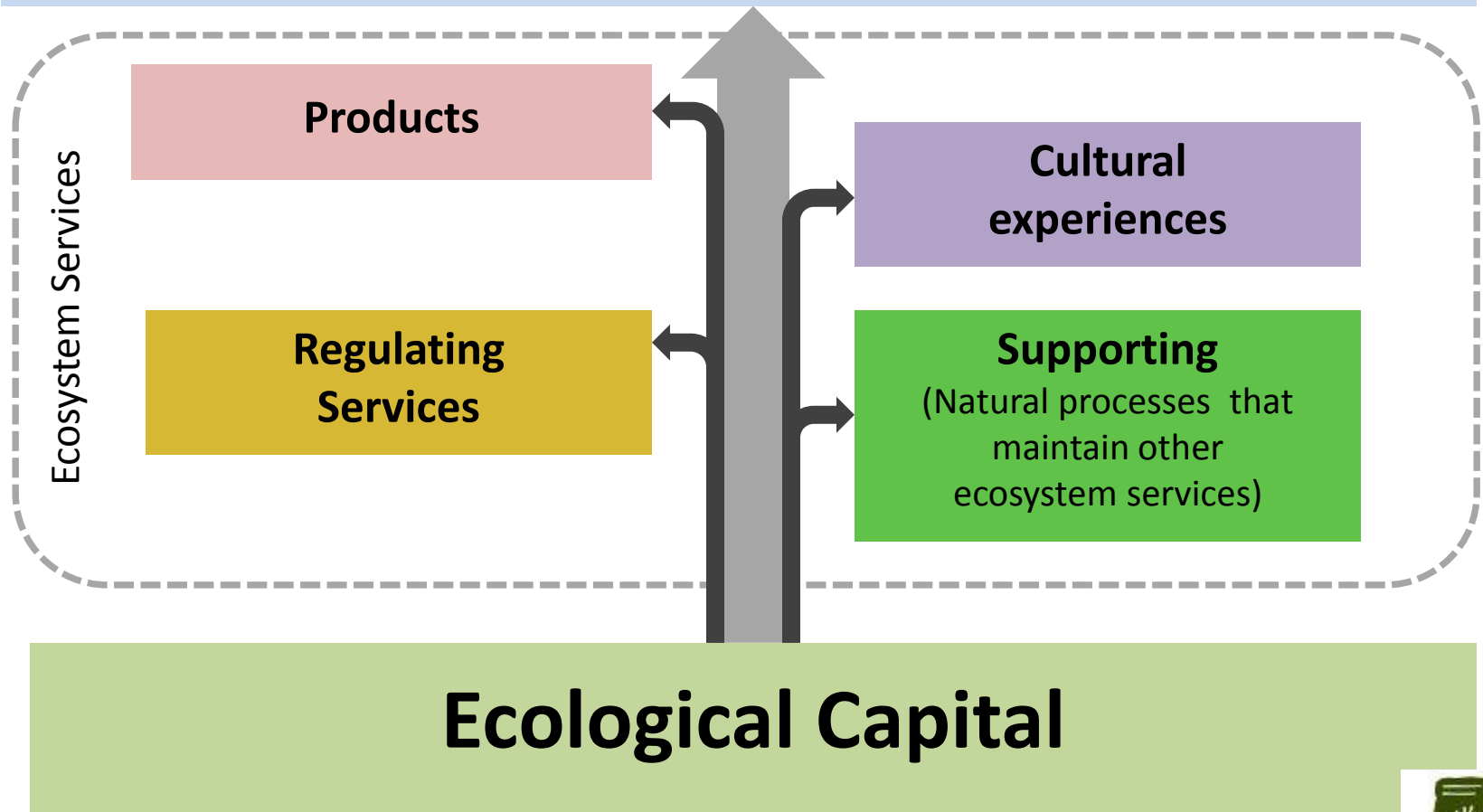
Health | Livability | Economic Vitality | Resiliency



Urban Green | Active Living | Local Food | Flood Control

## Human well-being

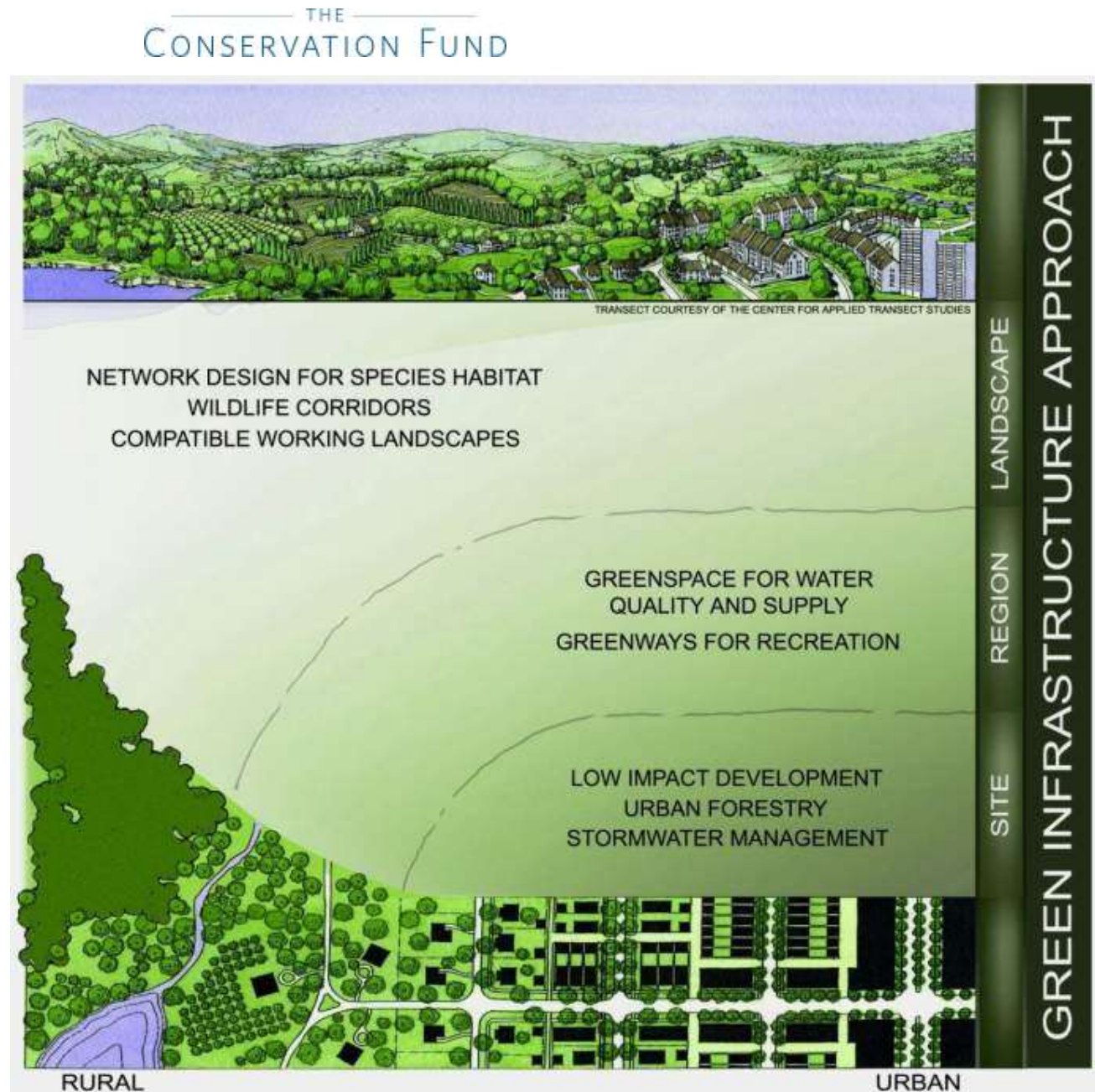
Material needs, health, security, social relations, “quality of life”



# Green Infrastructure – Linking Megaregions & Large Landscapes

A strategically planned and managed network of natural lands, working landscapes, and other open spaces that conserves ecosystem values and functions and provides associated benefits to human populations

(Benedict & McMahon, 2006)



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Core Aquatic Habitats

Core Wetlands

Aquatic Corridors

Wetland Corridors

Forest Corridors

Core Forests

Hubs

0 50 100 150 Miles

North Arrow

Mississippi River Green Infrastructure Network Design

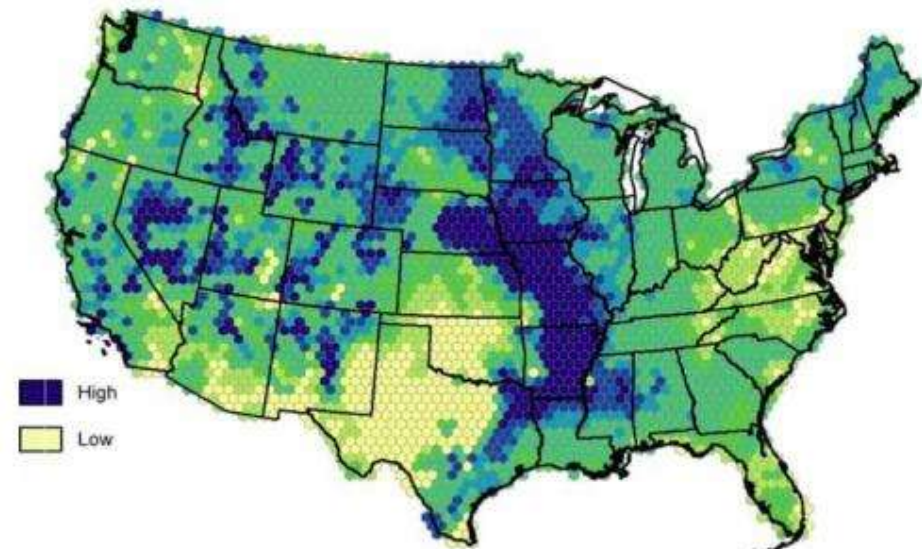
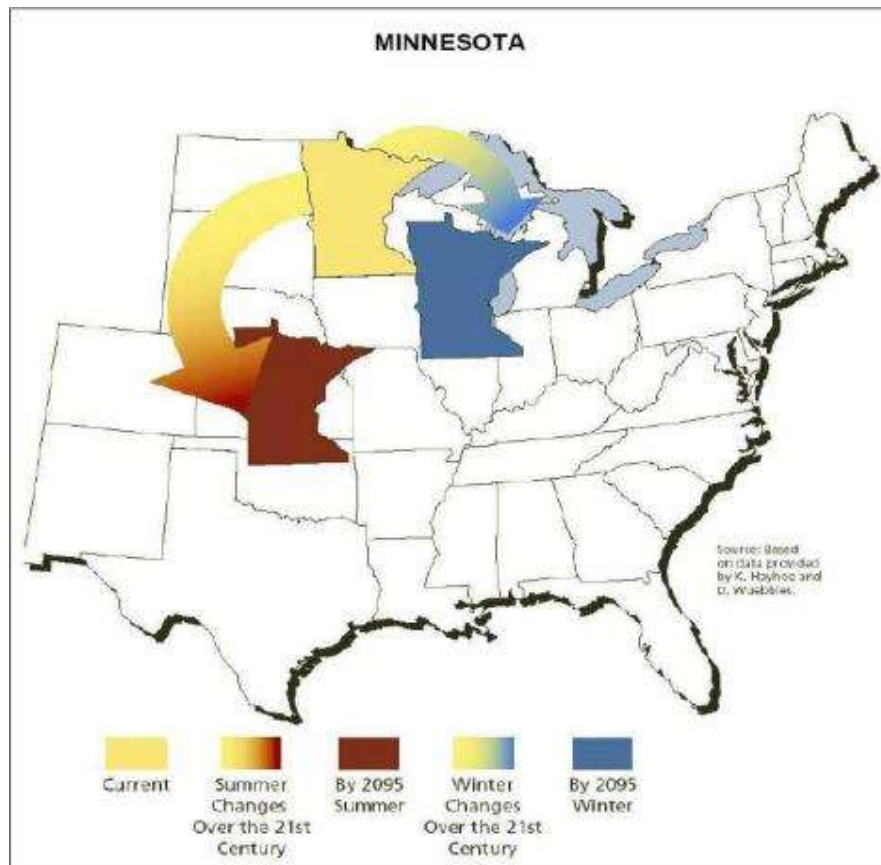
Map Prepared by The Conservation Fund

December 2010



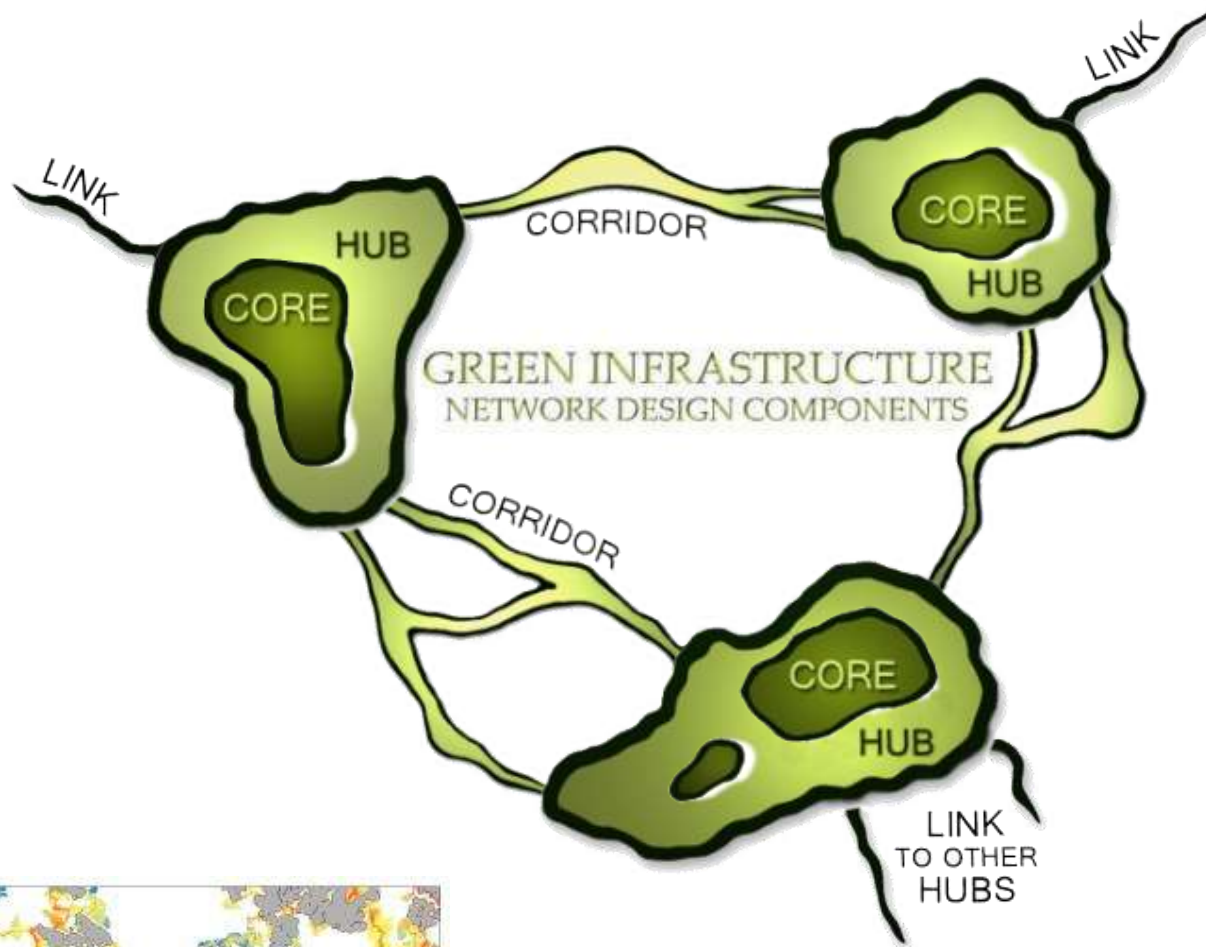
# Climate Change Adaptation / Resiliency

- More extremes – temperature & precipitation
- Range shifts
- Disturbances - Floods, Wildfire, Insects, Disease



**Figure 3.6 Climate Stress Index**

(Source: U.S.D.A. Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station, Wildlife Habitat Policy Research Program 2009)



## *Cores:*

- Contain fully functional natural ecosystems
- Provide high-quality habitat for native plants and animals

## *Hubs:*

- Slightly fragmented aggregations of core areas, plus contiguous natural cover

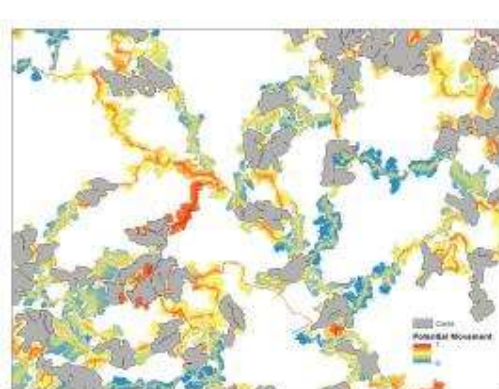
## *Corridors:*

- Link core areas together
- Allow animal movement and seed and pollen transfer between core areas

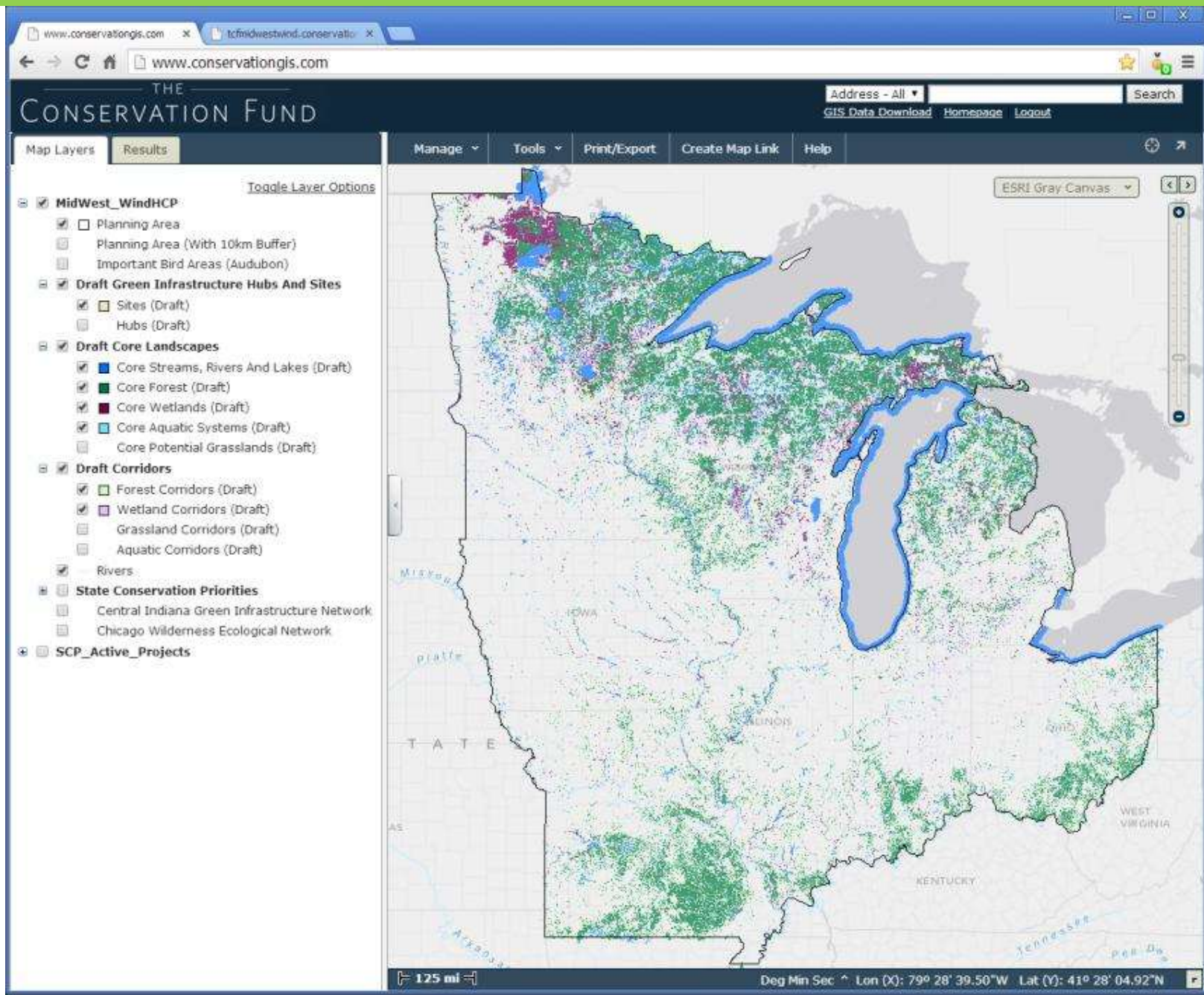
## *Sites:*

- Important microhabitats not captured by network thresholds and criteria

## *Functional Connectivity*



# GI Network: Protect | Restore | Connect



# GI Network: Protect | Restore | Connect

## Core Wetlands



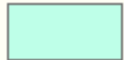
W5

## Wetland Sites



W6

## Wetland Complexes



W7

## Wetland Corridors (W8)

## Functional Connectivity



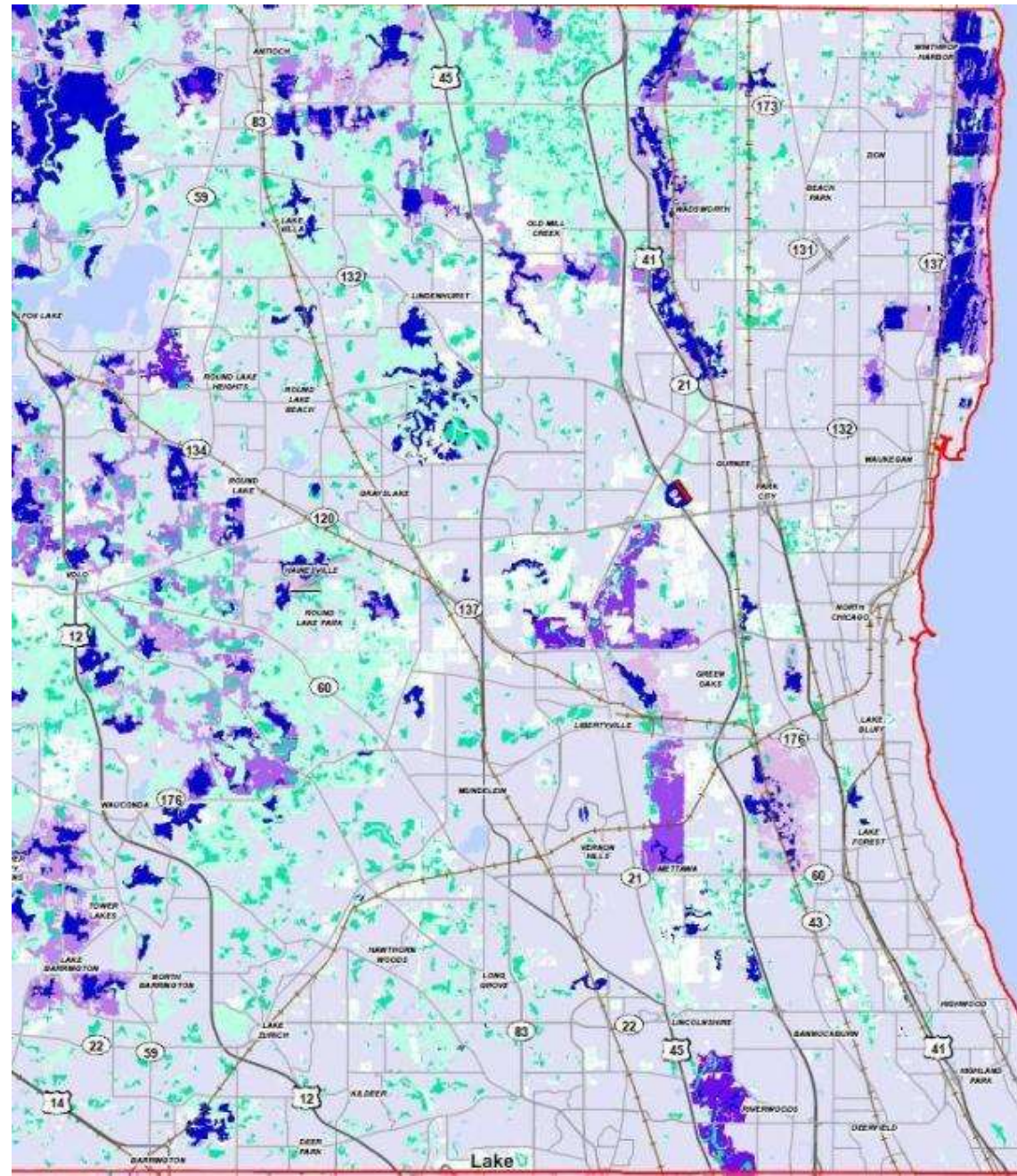
Higher

Lower

Chicago  
Wilderness



GREENING Infrastructure



# Site Scale Green Infrastructure Implementation: Philadelphia

[http://www.phillywatersheds.org/what\\_were\\_doing/documents\\_and\\_data/cso\\_long\\_term\\_control\\_plan](http://www.phillywatersheds.org/what_were_doing/documents_and_data/cso_long_term_control_plan)

## Philadelphia Water Department



## Green City, Clean Waters

Green City, Clean Waters is Philadelphia's 25-year plan to protect and enhance our watersheds by managing stormwater with innovative green infrastructure. The Philadelphia Water Department developed Green City, Clean Waters to provide a clear pathway to a sustainable future while strengthening the utility, broadening its mission, and complying with environmental laws and regulations.

Nationwide, water utilities are confronting a new set of complex environmental, demographic and financial challenges while also trying to meet customer expectations for a safe and affordable water supply; the collection and treatment of wastewater and stormwater; flood protection; and clean, attractive, fishable, swimmable rivers and streams. There are also new challenges posed by aging infrastructure and the impacts of climate change on human health and our ecosystems. Meeting these challenges requires either a significant new investment in "grey" infrastructure (underground storage tanks and pipes) or a paradigm shift in our approach to urban water resources.

Over the past decade, PWD has created, tested and implemented new strategies to promote the economic and social growth of the City and meet environmental, ecological and business missions. As the City agency charged with ensuring compliance with the Federal Clean Water Act, PWD developed Green City, Clean Waters to protect and enhance our waterways by using green infrastructure systems that assist or mimic natural processes.



Images above are design concepts only

# Green Infrastructure on Vacant/Underutilized Lands

grist

A BEACON IN THE SMOG

Pretty vacants: Urban communities fill empty lots with gardens, skate parks, and creative possibility

By Christopher Weber

In 2011, videogame developer Tarni Johnson, then 29, wanted to create an outdoor community space for her neighborhood in Brooklyn. In search of just the right spot, Johnson found an unusual website that mapped all the borough's vacant lots. It was like a Zillow for perfectly good land obscured by urban blight.



A Small Green Patch

It's harvest party time at A Small Green Patch in Brooklyn.

- New York City
  - 596 Acres
- Philadelphia
  - Possible City
  - Grounded in Philly
- New Orleans
  - Living Lots



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*Director of Strategic Conservation Planning*

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