

Green Infrastructure Planning – Linking Arkansas Communities
2008-2009

Appendix 10

Working Group Definitions, Assignments & Food for Thought Questions

- ENVIRONMENTAL WORKING GROUP
- HERITAGE WORKING GROUP
- PARKS AND TRAILS WORKING GROUP
- LAND USE WORKING GROUP
- AWARENESS WORKING GROUP
- COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES WORKING GROUP

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ENVIRONMENTAL WORKING GROUP

Definition, Assignment, & Food for Thought Questions

Definition: The Environmental Working Group is concerned with elements and issues of the natural environment that provide for the healthy maintenance of its ecology, habitats, biodiversity, watersheds, and its Green Infrastructure benefits.

Assignments:

1. Investigate and record existing and proposed Green Infrastructure elements to include on a Green Infrastructure Network Map that addresses the Working Group's area of interest.
2. Envision and record additional Green Infrastructure elements to include on the Green Infrastructure Network Map that addresses the Working Group's area of interest.
3. Document decision-making criteria.
4. Research and produce a compendium of implementation strategies.
5. Identify educational outreach and public forum items to be acted upon by the Awareness Working Group.

Food for Thought

1. The area of interest of the Environmental Working Group is broad, e.g. RTE flora and fauna, water quality and quantity, and habitat health. What is the most efficient way for the group to address the variety of issues that fall under its purview?
2. What are the most valuable resources and natural areas?
3. What conservation actions or projects have already been accomplished or are in the planning stages?
4. What additional conservation projects should be considered and why?

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HERITAGE WORKING GROUP

Definition, Assignment, & Food for Thought Questions

Definition:

The Heritage Working Group is concerned with elements and issues of heritage, and historical and cultural significance such as historic buildings and localities, heritage trails, and maintaining the cultural uniqueness of the area.

Assignments:

1. Investigate and record existing and proposed Green Infrastructure elements to include on a Green Infrastructure Network Map that addresses the Working Group's area of interest.
2. Envision and record additional Green Infrastructure elements to include on the Green Infrastructure Network Map that addresses the Working Group's area of interest.
3. Document decision-making criteria.
4. Research and produce a compendium of implementation strategies.
5. Identify educational outreach and public forum items to be acted upon by the Awareness Working Group.

Food for Thought:

1. What kinds of Green Infrastructure heritage resources are important?
2. What cultural and heritage resources are already conserved and/or mapped in the region?
3. What additional cultural and heritage resources are slated for conservation or should be included?
4. Are there other heritage/historical/culturally focused groups that should be consulted/informed/included in this work?

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PARKS AND TRAILS WORKING GROUP

Definition, Assignment, & Food for Thought

Definition:

The Parks & Trails Working Group is concerned with existing and potential recreational resources and issues that pertain to connectivity, access, corridors, linkages, parks, trails, and greenways.

Assignments:

1. Investigate and record existing and proposed Green Infrastructure elements to include on a Green Infrastructure Network Map that addresses the Working Group's area of interest.
2. Envision and record additional Green Infrastructure elements to include on the Green Infrastructure Network Map that addresses the Working Group's area of interest.
3. Document decision-making criteria.
4. Research and produce a compendium of implementation strategies.
5. Identify educational outreach and public forum items to be acted upon by the Awareness Working Group.

Food for Thought:

1. What kinds of recreational activities are important to include?
2. What recreational opportunities already exist?
3. What additional recreational accommodations are desired and what characteristics should they have?
4. Are there recreational groups that should be consulted/informed/included in this work?
What kinds of linkages are the study area communitie

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LAND USE WORKING GROUP

Definition, Assignment, & Food for Thought Questions

Definition:

The Landuse Working Group is concerned with issues relevant to the built environment, such as relating existing city plans to one another, zoning, landuse and landuse conversion, identifying opportunities for linking across jurisdictions, and landuse issues that affect the economic vitality of the region.

Assignments:

1. Investigate and record existing and proposed Green Infrastructure elements to include on a Green Infrastructure Network Map that addresses the Working Group's area of interest.
2. Envision and record additional Green Infrastructure elements to include on the Green Infrastructure Network Map that addresses the Working Group's area of interest.
3. Document decision-making criteria.
4. Research and produce a compendium of implementation strategies.
5. Identify educational outreach and public forum items to be acted upon by the Awareness Working Group.

Food for Thought:

1. What categories of landuse are important to consider in the region?
2. How can a Green Infrastructure Plan best serve the community in promoting conservation of desired existing landuses and facilitate the wise location of development?
3. Are there other landuse focused groups that should be consulted/informed/included in this work?

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AWARENESS WORKING GROUP

Definition, Assignment, & Food for Thought

Definition:

The Awareness Working Group is concerned with developing outreach for educating the public on Green Infrastructure issues suggested by the other Working Groups, for informing the public of upcoming public forums, and for reporting on the progress of the Green Infrastructure Planning project.

Assignments:

1. Work with the Community Representatives Working Group to develop strategies for communicating with their community's residents, such as newspapers, places to post notices, email and mailing lists.
2. Respond to other Working Groups' suggestions for education/outreach
3. Develop & implement strategy for public information/education
4. Develop, keep, and publicize public forums calendar
5. Report on progress of the Green Infrastructure Planning project

Food for Thought Questions:

1. What Green Infrastructure issues and goals are most important in terms of public awareness?
2. What publicized efforts are already underway that support or dovetail with this Green Infrastructure Planning project?
3. What public perceptions or ignorance exists that constitutes a challenge to the acceptance of Green Infrastructure Planning?
4. Can you develop a strategy for support of the Green Infrastructure vision and plan that will enhance its likelihood of acceptance by the public and of adoption by the municipalities and County as a planning tool?

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COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES WORKING GROUP

Definition, Assignment, & Food for Thought

Definition: The Community Representatives Working Group represents a first pass at the interests of the citizens of the municipalities and county in the study area and is concerned with helping gain access to the residents of their communities and the arrangement of well-attended public meetings.

Assignments:

1. Develop a list of specific community residents to contact for the public forums.
2. Develop a list of community groups to contact for the public forums.
3. Work with the Awareness Group to develop strategies for communicating with your community's residents, such as newspapers, places to post notices, email and mailing lists.
4. Identify educational outreach and public forum items to be acted upon by the Awareness Working Group.

Food for Thought

1. Who else in your community is involved in, concerned with, or passionate about the issues the Green Infrastructure Planning project is addressing?
2. How can the underrepresented sectors of your community be included?
3. What are the most valuable natural, cultural, and economic resources within your community?
4. What additional Green Infrastructure elements would be desirable in you community?
5. What are the main conservation and growth concerns in your community?
6. What tools would help your community address these issues?