

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**(re)connect: the Wasatch Front Green Infrastructure Plan**

*DEVELOPING A COMPREHENSIVE GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE NETWORK  
IN THE WASATCH FRONT REGION*

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH - June 22, 2010

For the first time in the Wasatch Front, a regional, comprehensive approach to strategic planning is underway to connect our Region's green infrastructure. *(Re)Connect: the Wasatch Front Green Infrastructure Plan* will identify and strengthen valuable natural systems through improved development patterns. The Plan will help determine which lands can accommodate growth and which lands are better suited to protect, preserve or conserve.

Green Infrastructure is an interconnected network of natural systems that provide a diverse range of environmental, social, recreational, psychological, public health, and economic benefits. Connectivity is important in planning for and upgrading man-made infrastructure (grey infrastructure) such as roads, storm drains, sewers, utilities, and levees. This connected approach is just as important in understanding and improving green infrastructure. An interconnected system allows for greater vitality, value, and function of natural areas and ecological networks. Green Infrastructure planning can help sustain clean air and water, promote the economy, and better the health, and quality of life of residents.

Existing federal, state and local agency plans and studies will be reviewed. Rick LeBrasseur, Executive Director at the Center for Infrastructure Design notes, "What is unique about this project is that it takes a regional perspective. We are looking at the region comprehensively from a green infrastructure standpoint; we are building off of current plans and resources, which typically only look at one particular asset, say wildlife or water quality, and combining them into an overall plan and strategy." The Plan will map ecological networks. "We expect that the completed map of the Wasatch Front's Green Infrastructure Network will provide a valuable tool for guiding future conservation efforts and decision making." states Val John Halford, Planner at the WFRC. The Plan will place a strong emphasis on implementation and will identify strategies that can be used by cities, counties, and other local or state agencies in updating General Plans, natural resource plans, transportation plans, watershed plans, and others.

The Wasatch Front Regional Council (WFRC) is working closely with the Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands, the Utah Quality Growth Commission, the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget, and the non-profit organization Center for Green Infrastructure Design to create this Plan.

**Open Houses (July 13th, 14th and 15th 2010)**

Open houses will be held in order to inform the public about green infrastructure, encourage participation, and seek public input. The public can help set green infrastructure priorities, identify valuable lands, and express desires for future green infrastructure by viewing green infrastructure maps and priorities.

July 13, 2010	Salt Lake City Library- Level 4 210 East 400 South Salt Lake City, UT 84111 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.	Tooele County Courthouse- Basement Auditorium 47 South Main Street Tooele City, UT 84074 4:00 – 8:00 p.m.
July 14, 2010	Morgan City Hall 48 West Young Street Morgan City, UT 84050 4:00 – 8:00 p.m.	Pleasant Valley Library - Alan Nye Board Room 5568 S Adams Avenue Parkway, Ogden (Washington Terrace), UT 84405 4:00 – 8:00 p.m.
July 15, 2010	Sandy City Hall- 2nd Floor 10000 Centennial Parkway Sandy, UT 84070 4:00 – 8:00 p.m.	The Utah House (Utah Botanical Center) 920 South 50 West Kaysville, UT 84037 4:00 – 8:00 p.m.

**Website**

The public can also fill out an important online survey and find out more information by visiting the website: <http://www.greeninfrastructuredesign.org/green-infrastructure>. Green infrastructure maps and other relevant studies can also be found on the website.

**Executive Committee**

Center for Green Infrastructure Design- Rick LeBrasseur, Project Manager, [rick@greeninfrastructuredesign.org](mailto:rick@greeninfrastructuredesign.org), 801-483-2100

The Wasatch Front Regional Council- LaNiece Davenport, Regional Planner, [ldavenport@wfrc.org](mailto:ldavenport@wfrc.org), 801-363-4230

Utah Quality Growth Commission, John Bennett

Utah Division of Forestry Fire and State Lands, Meridith Perkins

