Tri-County Regional Planning: Greening Mid-Michigan Online Toolkit

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Client:
Harmony Gmazel, AICP, Land Use Planner; Tri-County Regional Planning

Faculty Advisors:
Dr. Zenia Kotval, AICP; Dr. Rex LaMore
Role of MSU Practicum Students

- Conduct necessary research and data collection.

- Create an easy to use toolkit that can be used by local government officials, planners, and individuals interested in Greening Mid-Michigan.
The Tri-County Regional Planning Commission

- Advises Clinton, Eaton, Ingham Counties on land use policy, etc.
  - Includes 78 units of government; 50 of which have planning and zoning power
  - Coordinate plans between local units of governments by guiding growth of Tri-County into one common direction
Client Information (cont’d)

- Lead partner in Greening Mid-Michigan Vision
  - Promote green infrastructure within the Tri-County area.
  - Contracted MSU Urban & Regional Planning Practicum Students to help implement through an online toolkit.
Green Infrastructure is an interconnected network of green space and other environmental assets that conserves the functions of the natural ecosystem and provides associated benefits to people.

Based on a system of:
- Hubs
- Links
- Sites

(Greening Mid-Michigan)
Network Anchor (Hub) Large Natural Area

Small Natural Area (Site)

River or Stream (Link)

Small Forest Area (Site)

Tree Rows (Link)

Small Wetland Area (Site)

Tree, Fence & Hedge Row (Link)

Network Anchor (Hub) Large Natural Area
A New Online Green Infrastructure Toolkit for the Tri-County Region

www.greenmidmichigan.org
List of Tools

- **Hub Tools**
  - Parks and Recreation
  - Urban Forestry

- **Site Tools**
  - Low Impact Development (LID)
  - Green Building
  - Historic Preservation
  - Brownfield Reclamation
  - Infill Development
  - Urban Agriculture/Community Gardening
  - Rural Agribusiness

- **Link Tools**
  - Trails and Non-Motorized Pathways
  - Wildlife Corridors

- **Management Tools**
  - Purchase of Development Rights (PDR)
  - Transfer of Development Rights (TDR)
  - Watershed Planning
  - Conservation Easements
  - Health Impact Assessment Plan

- **Public Input Tool**
  - Volunteer Stewardship
# Tool Matrix

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Format of Tools

- Background
- Methods of Implementation
- Funding
- Sample Ordinance Language/ Regulatory Considerations
- Case Studies
- Discussion
Link Tools

- Trails and Non-Motorized Pathways

(Northern Tier Trail – City of East Lansing, MI)
Trails and Non-Motorized Pathways

Background:
- Major links connecting hubs and sites
- Various Types

Rails-to-Trail

Bike Lanes / Paved Shoulders
- MSU Campus Bike Lane
- (Abandoned Railroad Tracks)

Boardwalk
- (Clinton-Ionia-Shiawassee Trail, MTGA)

Others:
- River Trails
- Water Routes
- Safe-Route-to-School Program

(Lansing River Walk)
Trails and Non-motorized pathways

Background:

Local Trail “Scene”
Trails and Non-motorized pathways

Methods of Implementation:

- **Identify Resources**
  - Green Mid-Michigan
  - Michigan Trails and Greenway Alliance

- **Master Plan**
  - Community
  - Individual
    - Multiple Jurisdictions