

Green Infrastructure Map with Impacts Description:

The map legend categories are defined more precisely as follows

Highly Developable – White - Areas that are well suited for development

Some Green Infrastructure Elements - Yellow - Areas that are suited for development with consideration of larger landscape systems, such as stormwater management, upland-wetland complexes, poor soils, unstable slopes, trails, habitat, etc.

Important Green Infrastructure Elements – light green - Development in these areas should consider the specific GI characteristics present. These are not critical natural areas. However, if, development in these areas is not done in a careful manner, it will have negative impacts on the larger landscape systems. Construction costs in these areas, will probably cost significantly more if the natural characteristics are not considered. These are areas where the public and property owners should be made aware that there is some important characteristic that they should consider protecting (such as steep slope, valuable wildlife habitat, adjacent creeks, trails or wetlands). These are areas that would benefit from clear development guidelines to preserve landscape systems, and would be eligible for special development or restoration incentives.

Very Important Green Infrastructure Element – medium green - These areas should probably be set aside as open space, but are not critical for conservation. However, if, development in these areas is not done in a careful manner, it will have *large* negative impacts on the larger landscape systems and critical GI areas. These areas would be suitable for large incentives such as conservation setbacks, active parks, development trades or restoration of appropriate GI systems.

Critical Green Infrastructure – dark green - These areas have sensitive or critical landscape systems or connections and should be targeted for 100% conservation. Development in these areas will cause significant impacts on natural systems, neighboring development and view-sheds., Development in these areas will increase the risks and associated costs from natural hazards . These areas should be considered amenities to the city and residents for their value for stormwater management, habitat protection, view-shed protection and may include trails or areas for passive recreation. Options for preserving these lands in conservation easements, land/development trades or other incentives should be explored for those areas held in private ownership.

At Risk Green Infrastructure – red – These areas are places where development currently impacts important GI lands. These are areas where special considerations should be taken in any new development, or where the City may want to focus their restoration efforts.

This Green Infrastructure map is generated from spatially explicit GIS base maps including and considering:

- Soils
- Creeks and drainages
- Stormwater management
- Wetlands
- Slopes
- Bluff erosion
- Vegetation habitat
- Wildlife habitat
- Construction costs (essentially development costs due to slope, road access, soils, wetlands, open water and drainages)
- Accessible lands - lands already served by road and w/s (basically a weighted buffer by infrastructure construction costs)
- Trails and public amenities
- Views and viewsheds