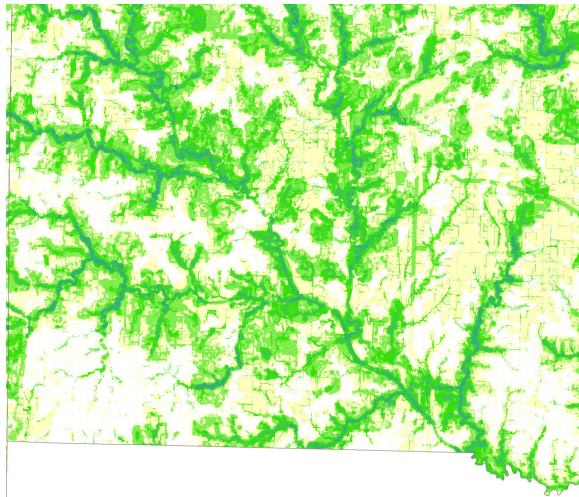


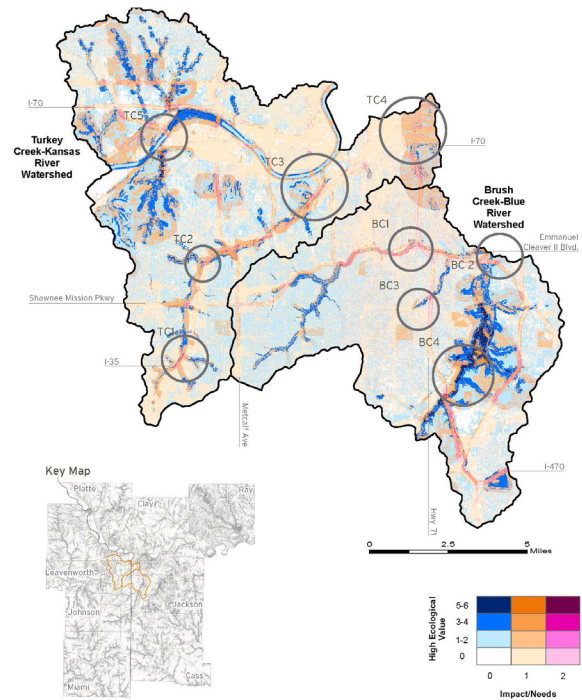
MARC Green Infrastructure Framework

Kansas City, Missouri



PHASE 1 GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE FRAMEWORK

CONNECTING PEOPLE TO NATURE



ATLAS & PLAYBOOK | 55

Community needs and ecosystem health are integrated in a regional planning effort that prioritizes opportunity areas and strategies for implementation building on momentum and partners.

SERVICES

Inventory & Assessments
Planning
Management
Policy

Communities across the country are connecting to natural systems to address environmental, economic, and social challenges. In the greater Kansas City area, the Mid-America Regional Council recognizes green infrastructure planning as a way to improve human health and well-being by increasing access to green space, reducing susceptibility to flooding, and improving habitat, air, and water quality.

To create a green infrastructure planning framework, Biohabitats worked with BNIM to establish ecological health within the region's cultural and economic fabric. Biohabitats conducted a system inventory and synthesized resource data into a prioritization model overlaying high value resources with areas of pressure and needs. The resulting "heat maps" were shared with community stakeholders to identify catalysts for implementation: accessibility; proximity to trails, schools, recreation; and momentum where projects were planned, started, or had partners.

The Phase 1 Green Infrastructure Framework has a three-tiered structure. The highest level is a series of regional-scale maps called the Atlas, which highlights priority areas based on values and needs. The next tier zooms into the watershed-scale, then a Playbook for implementation. Phase 2 refined the Atlas and includes two pilot projects in the Playbook. These opportunity areas exhibit the greatest potential for integrated green infrastructure and strategies for connection, partnerships, benefits, and metrics. The consulting team also researched policy examples and regional solutions that offered lessons learned and tools to build political support and context for successful outcomes. As a follow up, the project team also developed metrics to track resiliency and report progress associated with green infrastructure. As part of this effort, Biohabitats helped develop the baseline indicators for evaluating flood risk reduction, water quality Improvement, habitat improvement and climate protection, and improved access to nature in economically vulnerable communities.