

Funding Green Infrastructure

National Stream Restoration Conference

Baltimore, Maryland

Charles A. Flink, FASLA

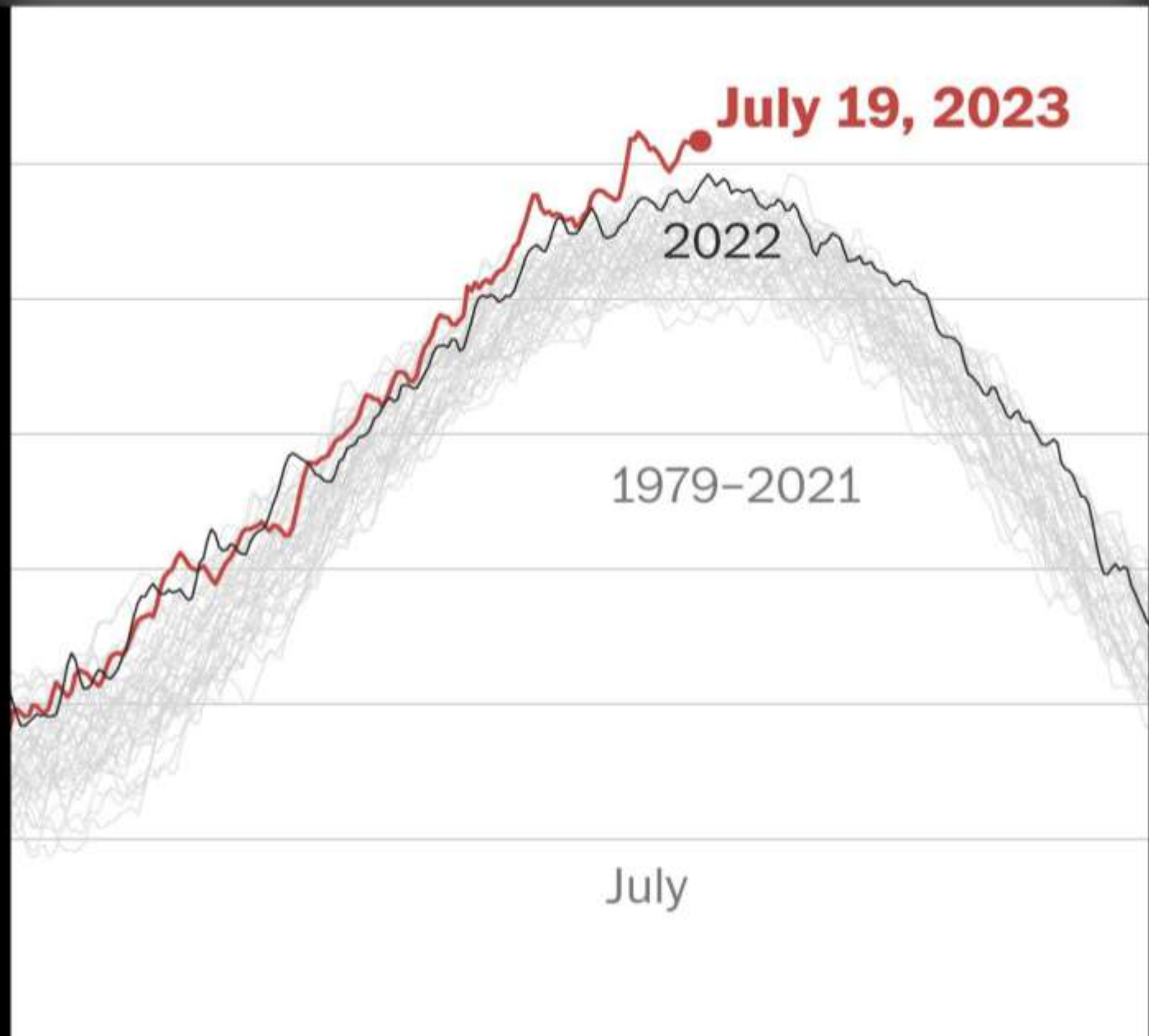


Summer

2023

July 2023

From Africa to Antarctica, all **seven** of Earth's continents have experienced extraordinary extreme weather events.



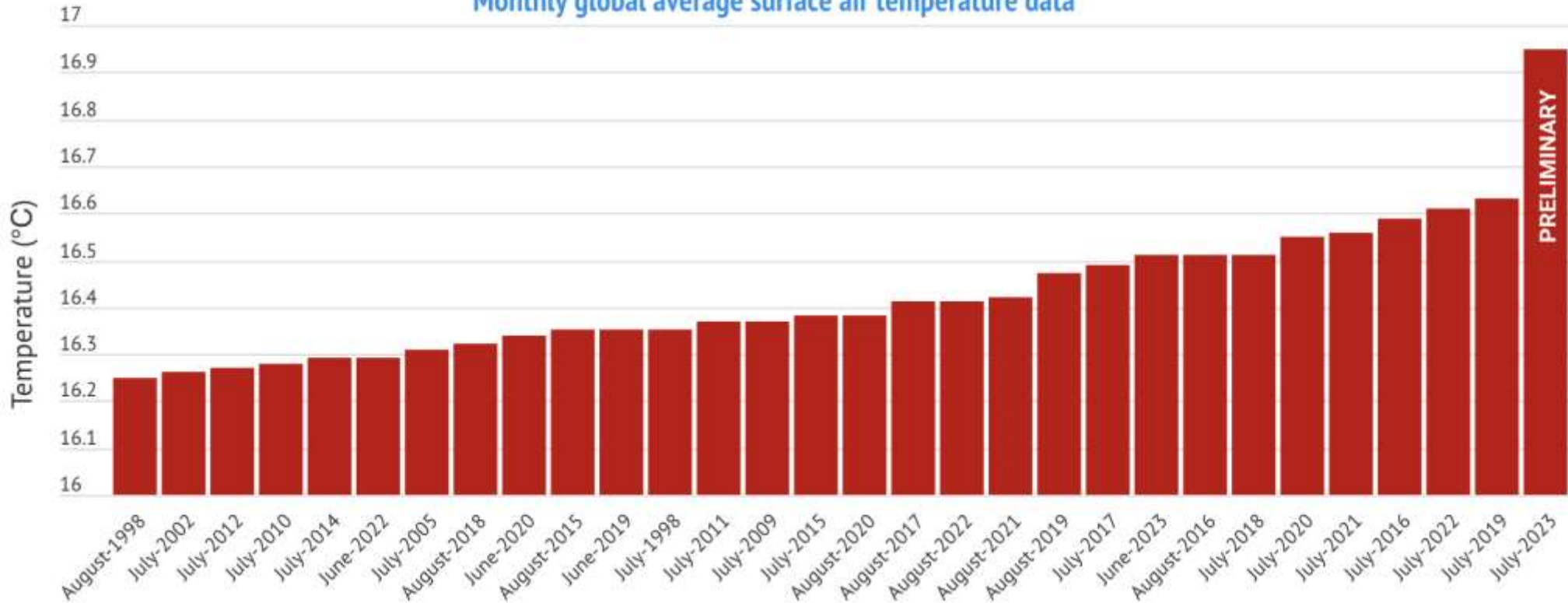
Source: Washington Post

July 2023 is set to be the hottest month on record



The 30 warmest months on record

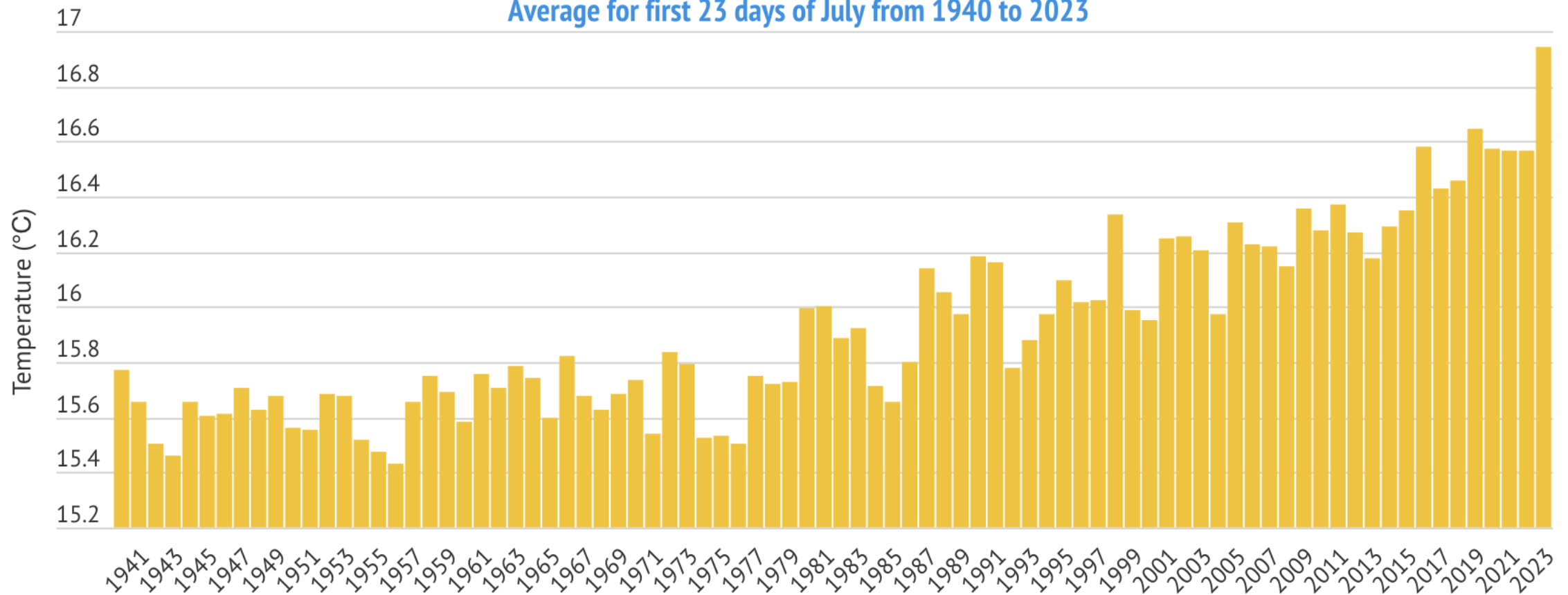
Monthly global average surface air temperature data



Data Source: C35 ERA5 dataset | Credit: C35/ECMWF

Hottest three weeks on record: Global surface air temperature 1-23 July

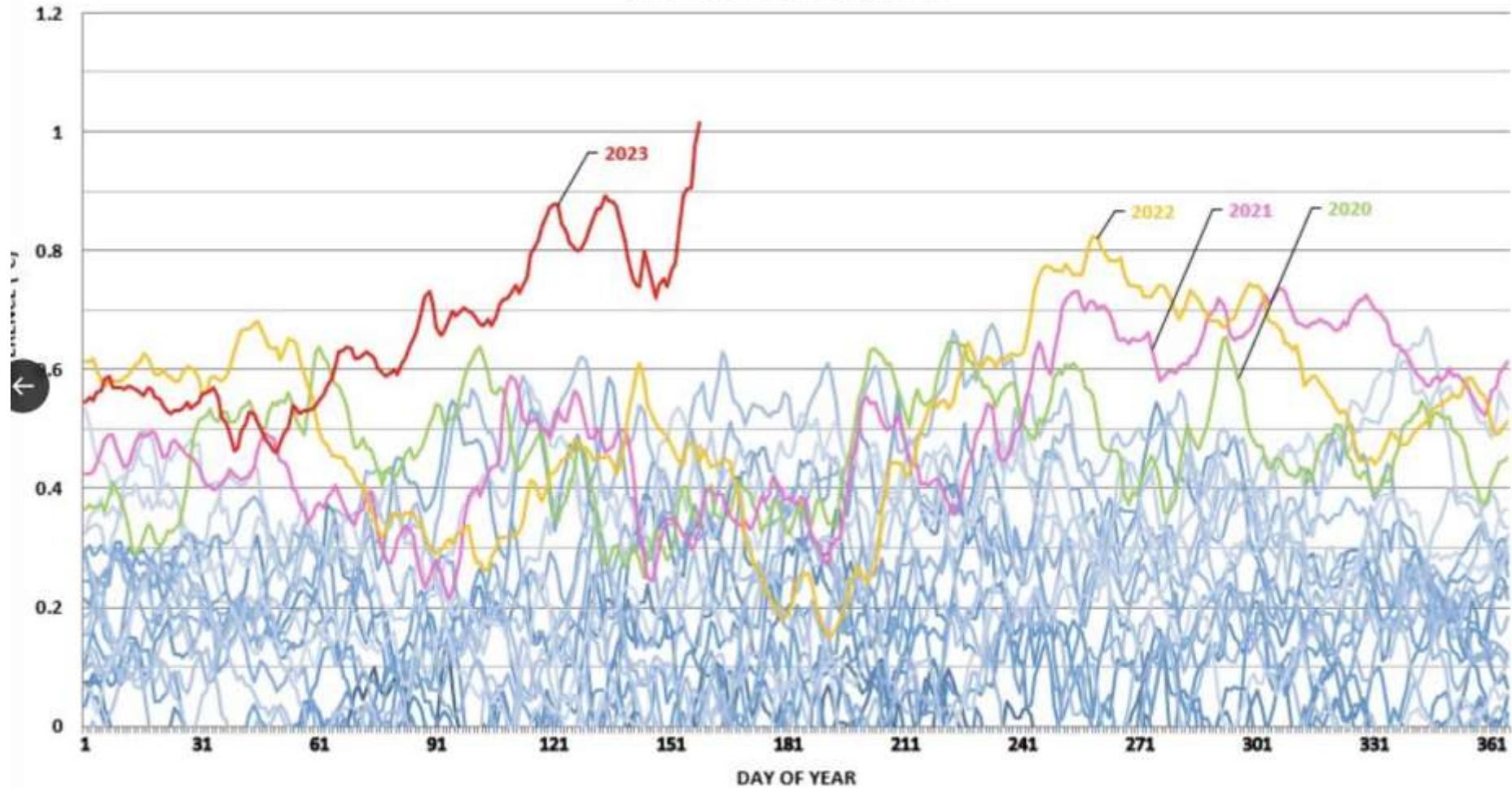
Average for first 23 days of July from 1940 to 2023



Created by UN NEWS

Source: CN News

North Atlantic (0-60N) Sea Surface Temperature Anomaly (SSTA) from 1982-2023 mean



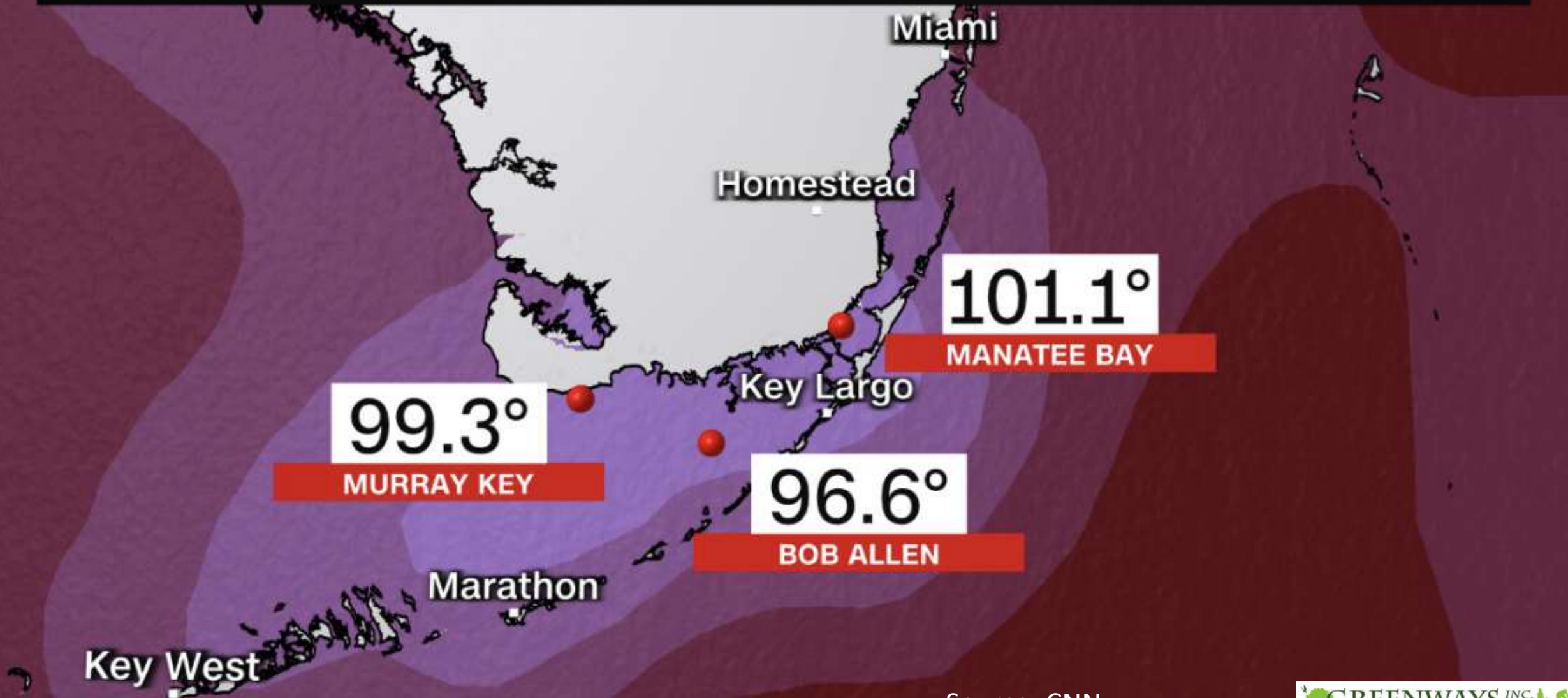
©Leon Simons, adjusted from Prof. Eliot Jacobson - Data source: NOAA Optimum Interpolation SST (OISST) dataset version 2.1
Through https://climateresearcher.org/clim/sst_daily/, Climate Change Institute University of Main. Data up to June 6th, 2023

Source: NOAA

OBSERVED WATER TEMPERATURES

MONDAY, JULY 24

NATIONAL DATA BUOY CENTER (°F)



Source: CNN

Canadian Wildfires



Source: CNN

Floods in Beijing



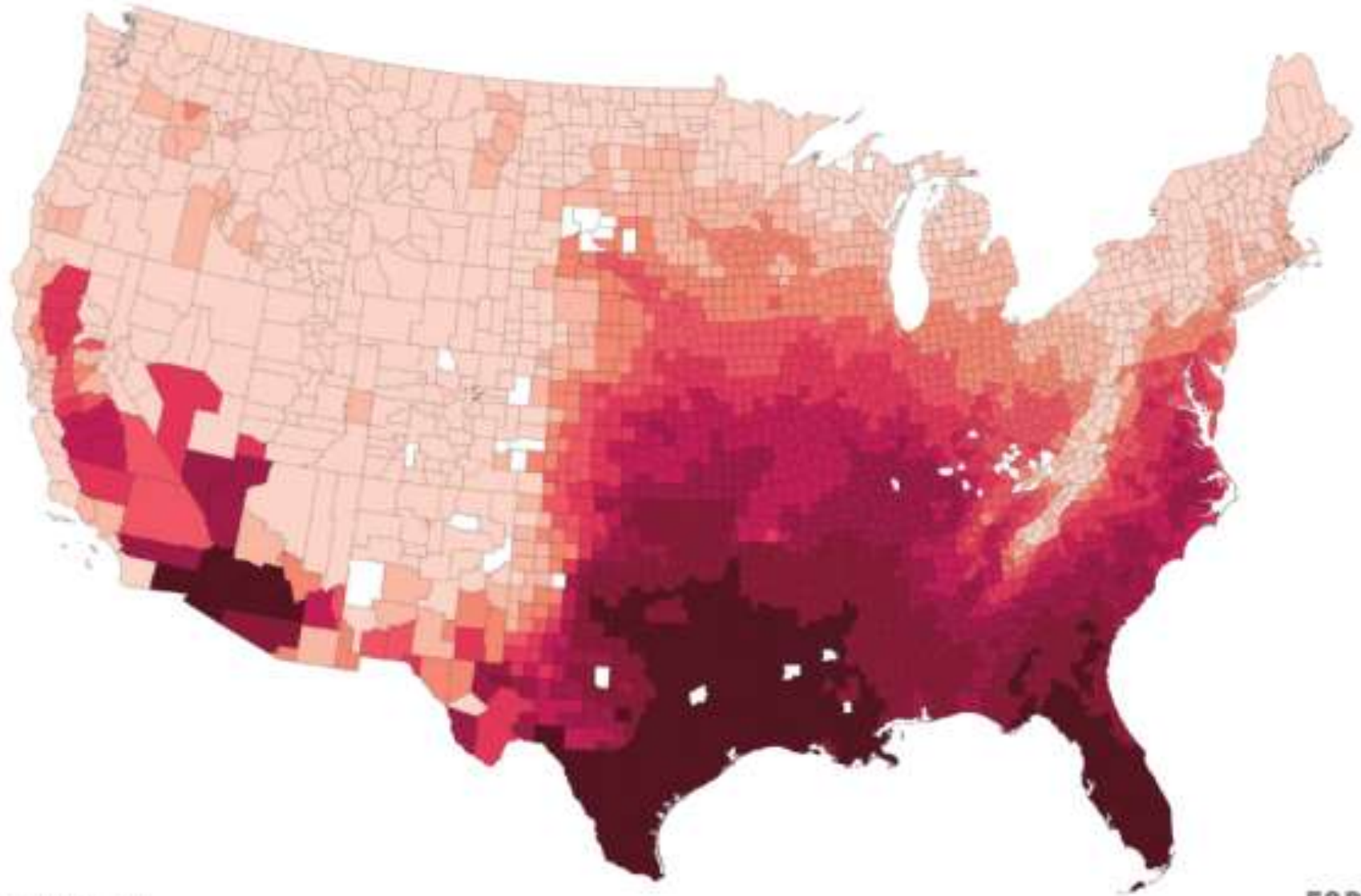
Source: 9News

NUMBER OF
DAYS PER YEAR
EXCEEDING THE
HEAT INDEX
TEMPERATURE
OF 100°F
IN 2053



□ NO DATA

SOURCE: FIRST STREET FOUNDATION



FORTUNE

Early Days for Extreme Heat



Our Only Home in the Universe

Earth's Biosphere



Earth's Biosphere

A photograph of a heavily polluted beach. The foreground and middle ground are covered in a thick layer of trash, including plastic bottles, bags, sticks, and other debris. In the background, two people are holding up a large yellow banner with the text "POLLUTED BY SINGLE-USE PLASTIC" in bold black letters. The beach is bordered by water on both sides, and the sky is overcast with grey clouds.

**POLLUTED BY
SINGLE-USE PLASTIC**

Extracting



Source: Sergey Milovido - Fotolia

Harvesting



Farming





Manufacturing

Source CNBC.com

Building



Industrial Fishing

Conserve Greenspace & Ecology

Source: Wake County Parks and Recreation

Species Extinction





**Human Health is Not the
Only Important Imperative**

One Health



People who protect human, animal, and environmental health, and other partners

To achieve the best health outcomes for people, animals, plants, and our environment



Ecologist Aldo Leopold:

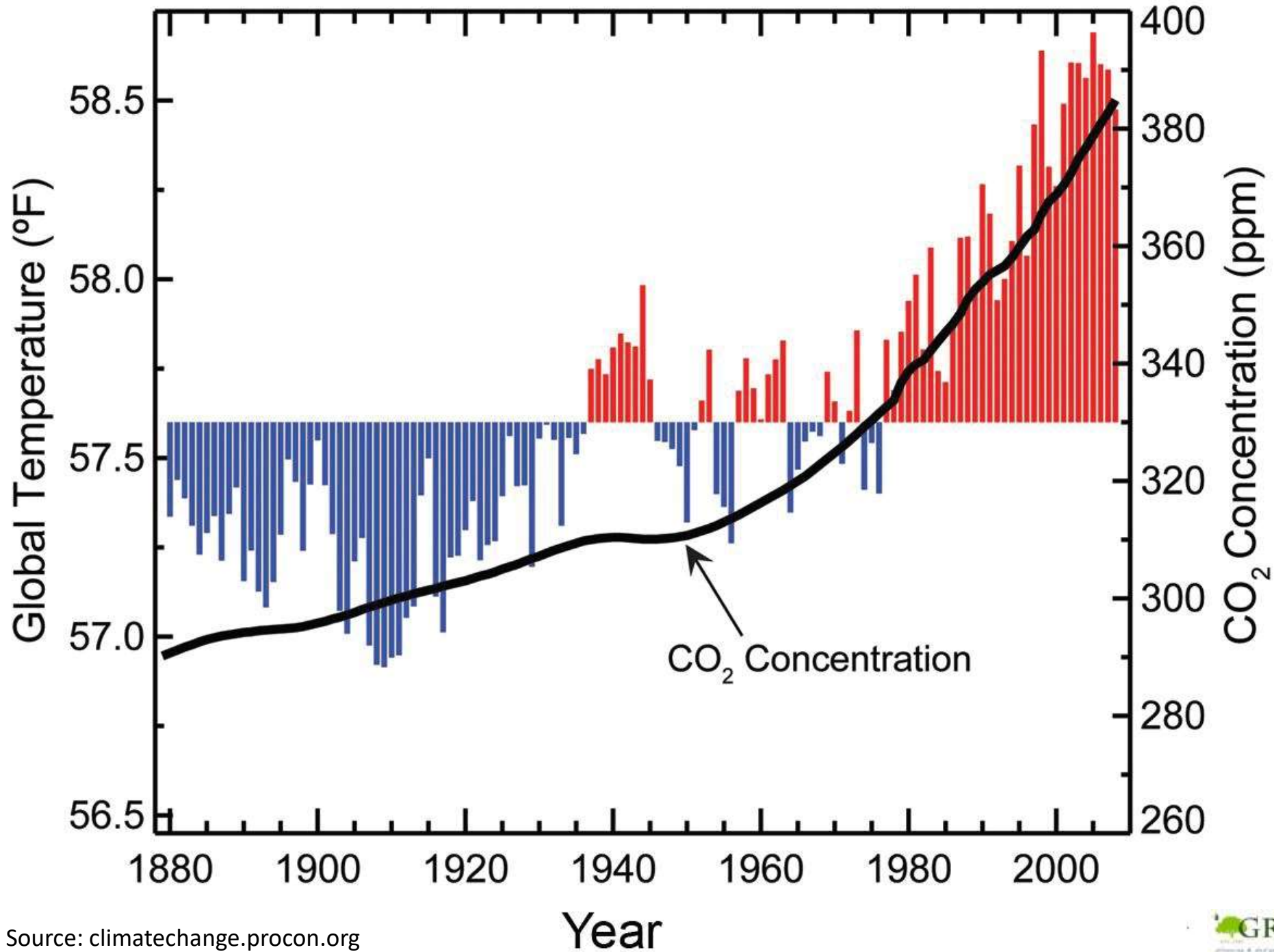
*“What’s good for our
body is good for our
ecosystem”*

*“We abuse land because we regard it as a **commodity** **belonging to us**. When we see land as a **community to which we belong**, we may begin to use it with **love and respect**.”*

Aldo Leopold, A Sand County Almanac



Global Warming

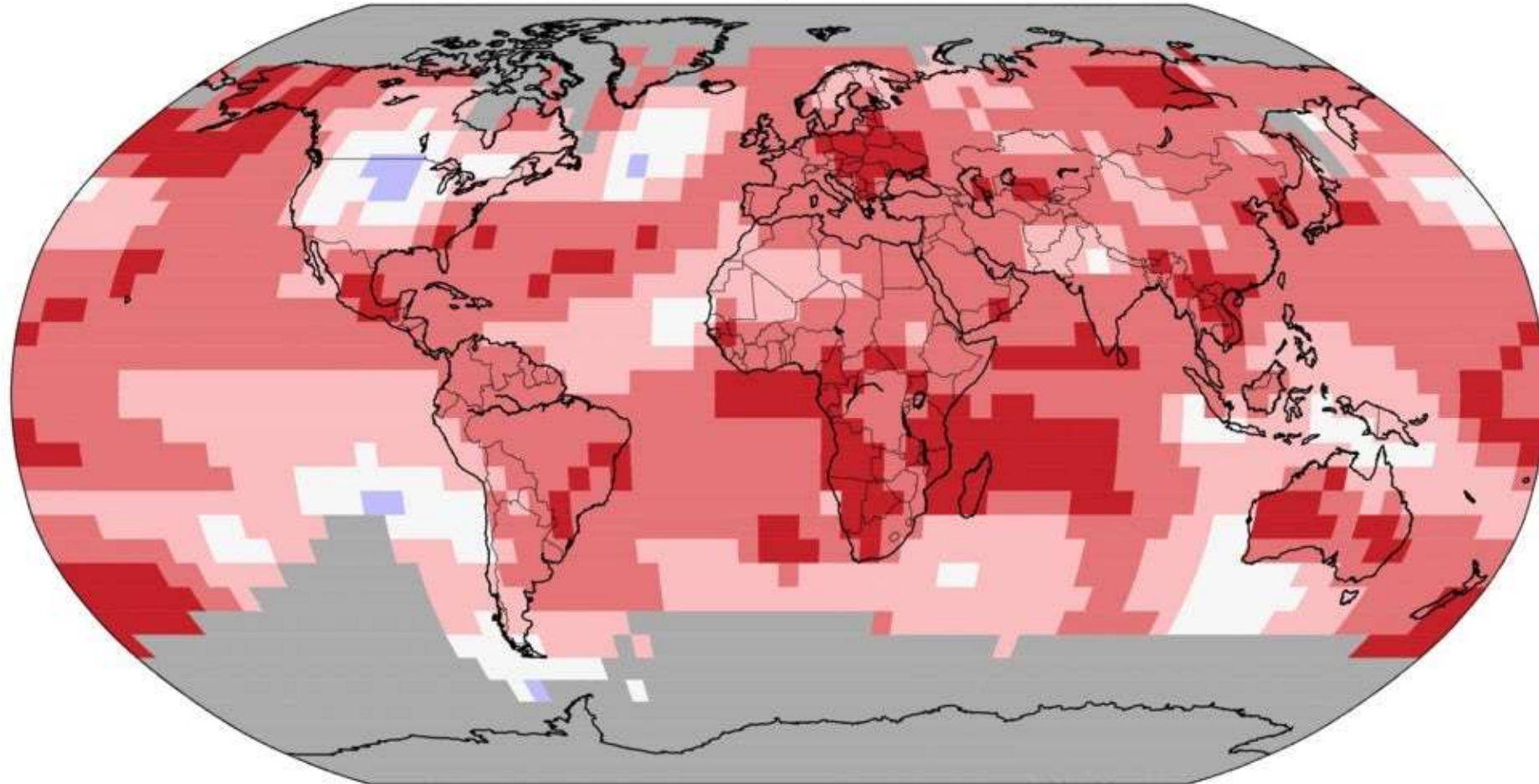


Source: climatechange.procon.org

Land & Ocean Temperature Percentiles Jan–Dec 2019

NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information


Data Source: NOAA GlobalTemp v5.0.0–20200108





**Record
Coldest**


**Much
Cooler than
Average**


**Cooler than
Average**


**Near
Average**


**Warmer than
Average**


**Much
Warmer than
Average**


**Record
Warmest**



WET GETTING WETTER

CHANGE IN ANNUAL RAINFALL SINCE 1950



Statewide averages from NOAA NCEI Climate at a Glance. Produced 5/22/2019
Source: NOAA/NCEI Climate at a Glance

CLIMATE  CENTRAL



New Orleans 2005

Source: AAC-RERC



Louisiana 2016

Source: NBC News



Houston 2017

Source: Business Insider



North Carolina 2018

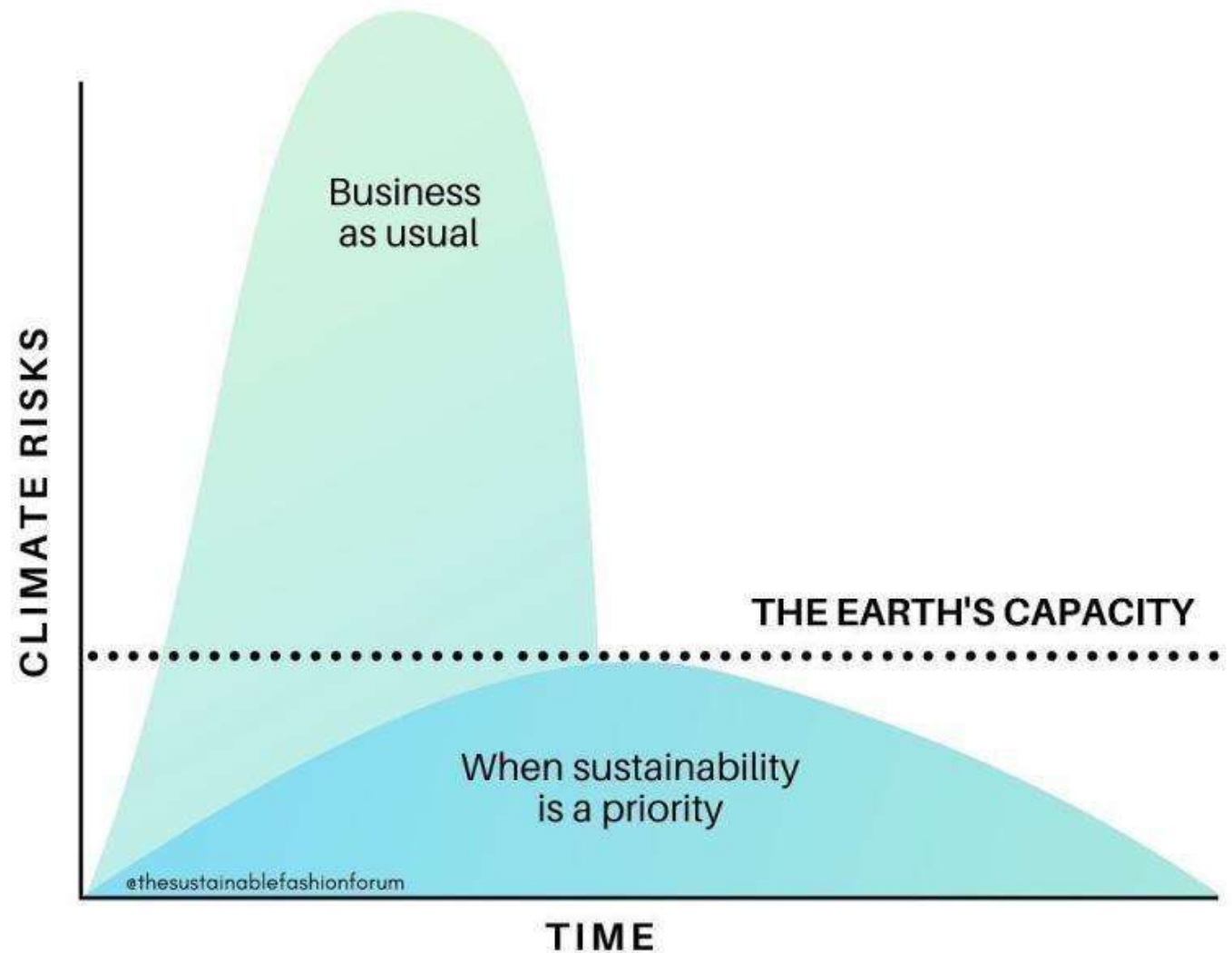


“Water is the blade of climate change that will cut most deeply”

David Festa, Environmental Defense Fund

Can Humans Conduct our Lives in a More Sustainable Manner?

LET'S FLATTEN THIS CURVE TOO



The book cover features a photograph of a paved greenway path winding through a lush, green landscape. Several cyclists are riding along the path, which is marked with a yellow line. The background is filled with tall trees and a clear sky. The title 'THE GREENWAY IMPERATIVE' is prominently displayed in large, bold, yellow letters at the top. Below the title, the subtitle 'Connecting Communities and Landscapes for a Sustainable Future' is written in a smaller, white font. The author's name, 'Charles A. Flink', is positioned at the bottom center of the cover.

THE GREENWAY IMPERATIVE

Connecting Communities and Landscapes
for a Sustainable Future

Charles A. Flink

**Published
in March
2020**

Imperative

... of vital importance, urgent, crucial (adjective)

... an essential or urgent thing (noun)

**Are greenways an
imperative?**

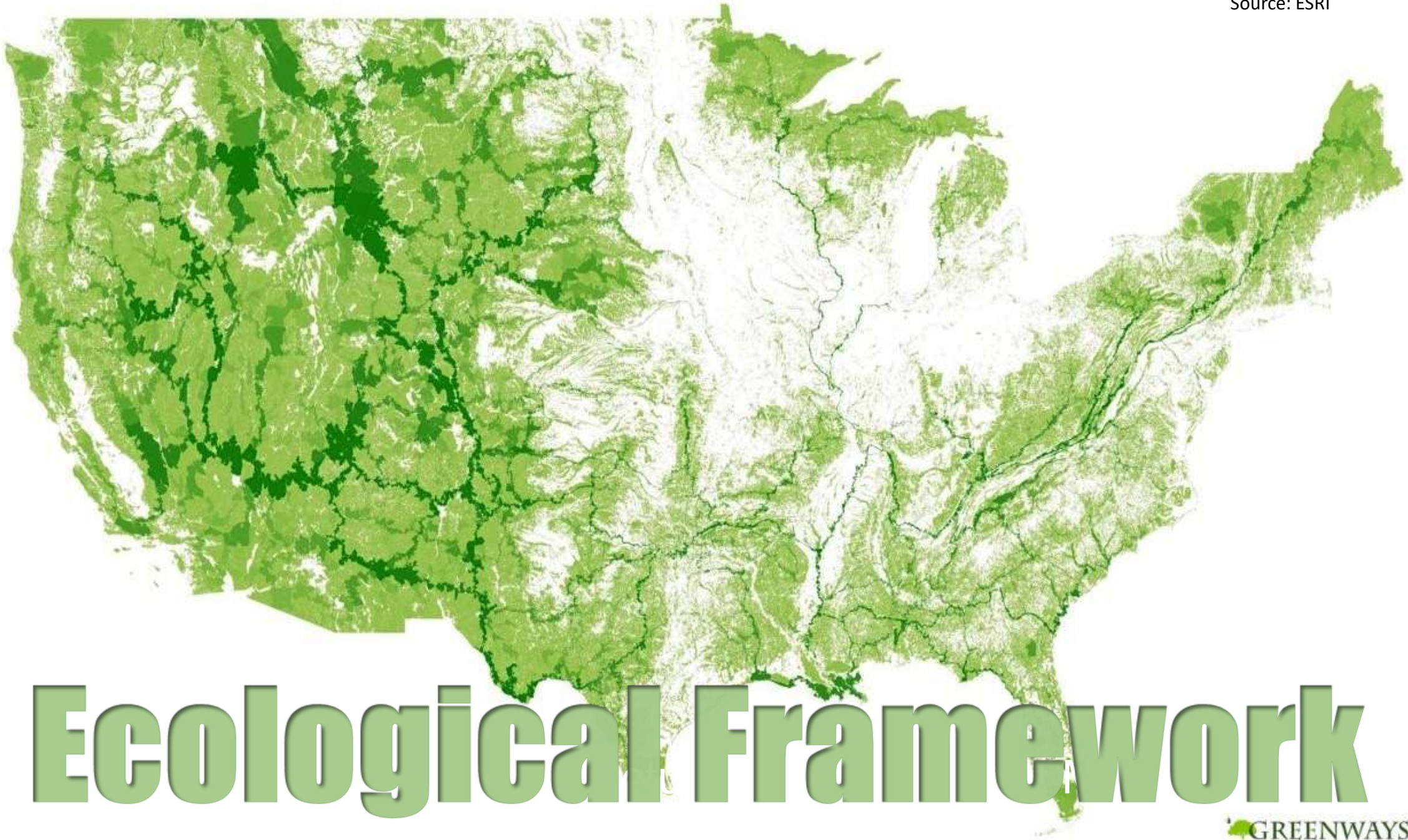
A Call to Action



Build a Resilient Framework for Nature and Civilization



Source: Stoss New Urbanism

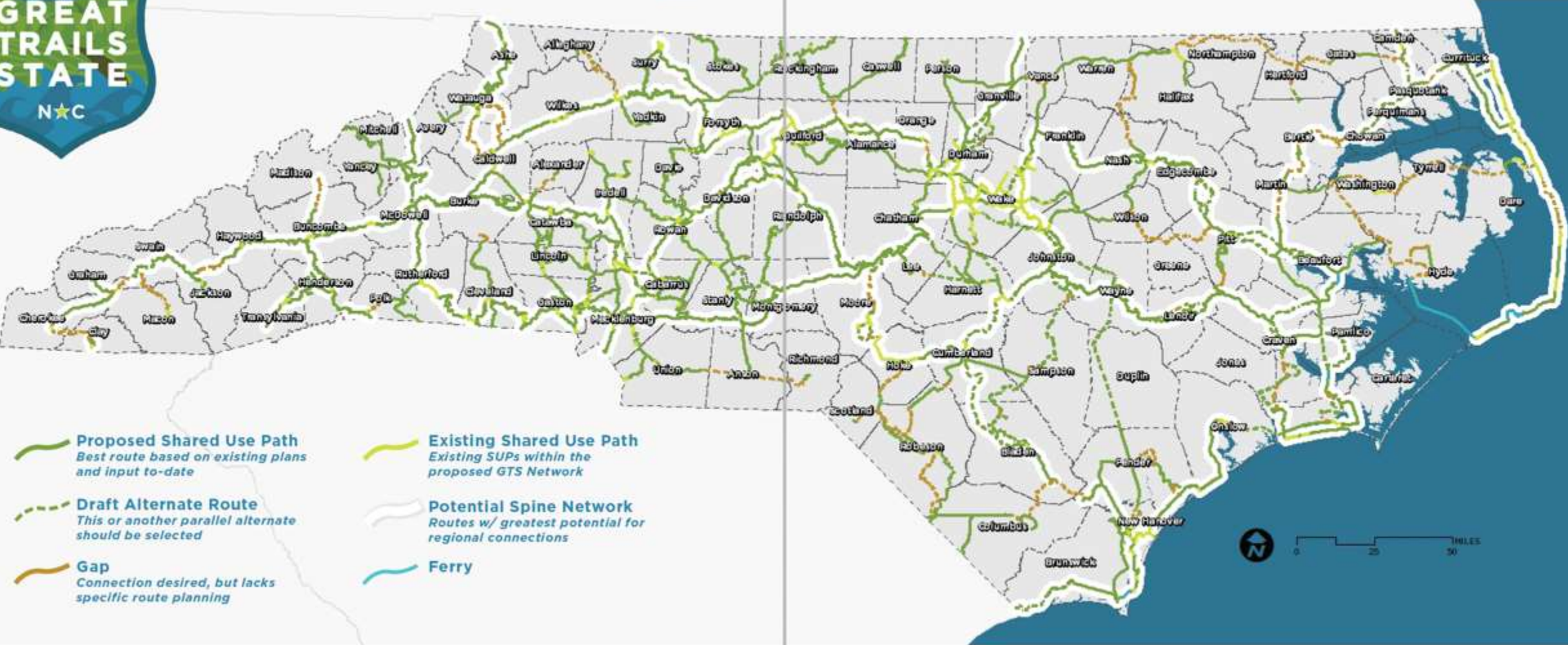


Ecological Framework

North Carolina – The Great Trails State

GREAT TRAILS STATE NETWORK MAP

- Update Policies
- Work with Implementation Partners
- Funding Recommendations





East Coast Greenway®

CONNECTING CITIES FROM MAINE TO FLORIDA



-100 0 100 200
Scale in Miles



Money
“Follows” (verb)
Vision



Water



Wildlife

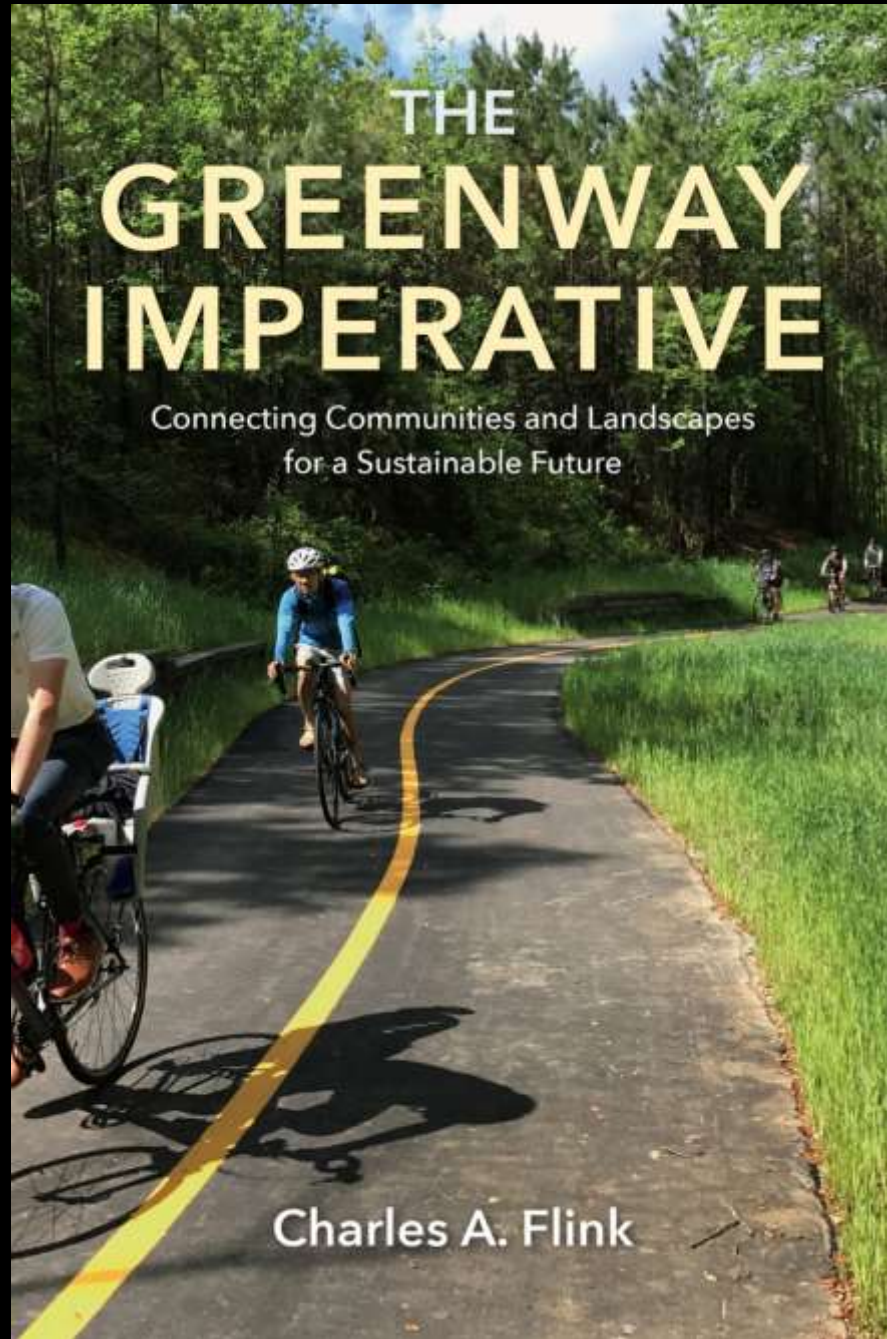


Lifestyle

Charleston County Greenbelts Plan



**Charleston County
South Carolina**

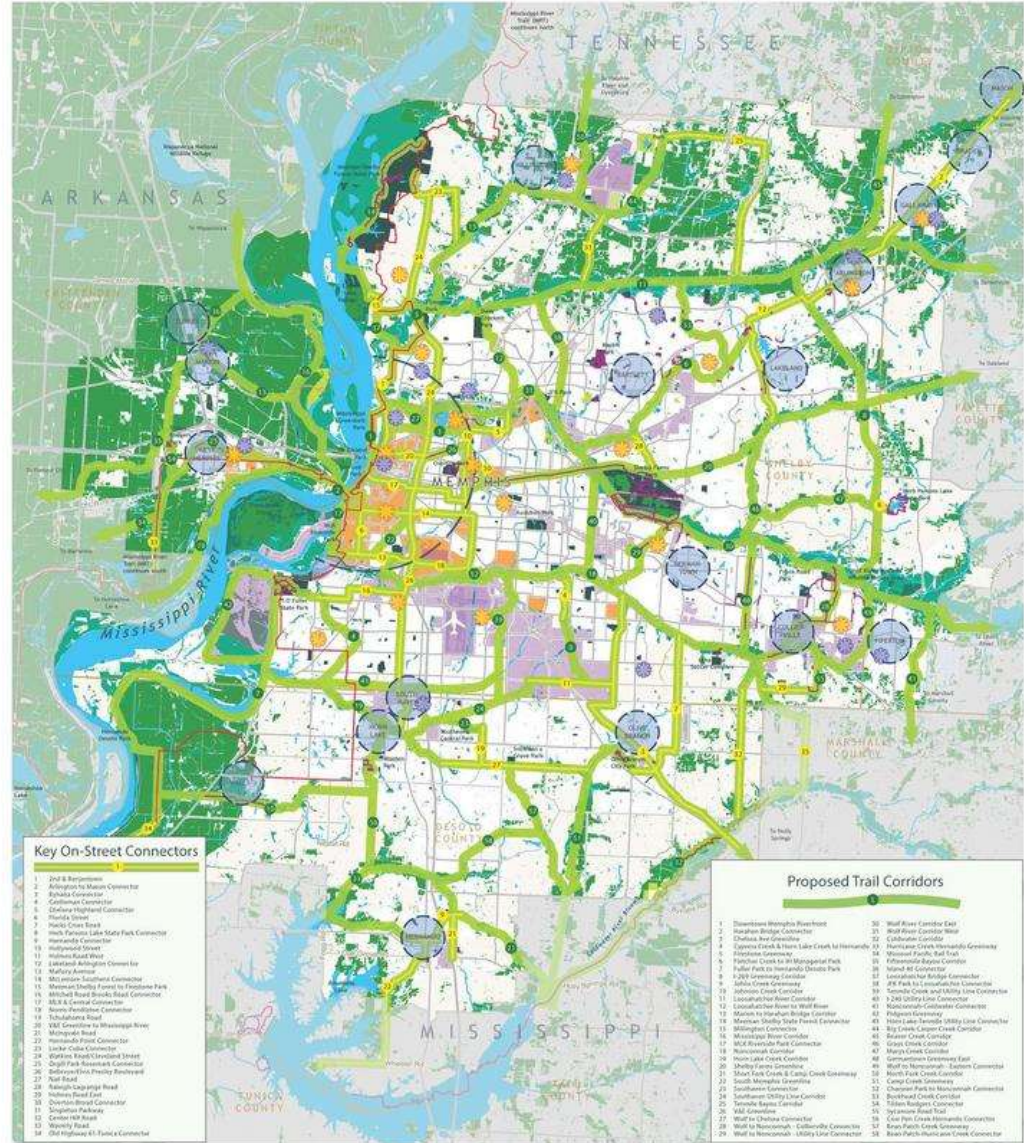


Chapter Seven: *Lowcountry Life;* Charleston County Greenbelt Program, South Carolina

Greenprint

“Just as we would NOT consider building a house without a **Blueprint**, we should NOT continue to grow our communities without a **Greenprint**”

Flink 2000



Key On-Street Connectors

1. 2nd & Bertram
2. Arlington to Mason Center for
3. Alpha Connector
4. Colfax Connector
5. Colfax Highway Connector
6. Florida Street
7. Hacky Cross Street
8. Main Street to Lake-Sally Park Connector
9. Main Street to University
10. Main Street to University
11. Main Street to University
12. Lakeland to Arlington Center for
13. Main Street to University
14. Main Street to University
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33. Main Street to University
34. Main Street to University

Proposed Trail Corridors

1. Shiloh to Memphis Riverfront
2. Main Street to University
3. Main Street to University
4. Main Street to University
5. Main Street to University
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33. Main Street to University
34. Main Street to University

Key Inputs:

- Proposed Key On-Street Connectors:** These bicycle and pedestrian-friendly streets will connect the Regional Trail System where all road studies are not possible.
- Proposed Key On-Street Connectors:** These bicycle and pedestrian-friendly streets will connect the Regional Trail System where all road studies are not possible.
- City Centers and Town Centers:** Showing a 1/2 mile radius (20-minute walk) from center.
- Employment Centers and High Priority Areas for Equity:** Traditionally underserved areas and major employment centers are highlighted as priorities for connecting future green infrastructure.
- Commercial Revitalization Focus Areas:** Showing Focus Areas.
- Other Greenprint Focus Areas:** These areas were identified by citizens and community groups as areas of focus for revitalization and housing.
- Parks:** Public Recreation Areas, Farmland, Conservation Areas, Wetlands, Waterways and Streams.
- Open Space Resources:** These resources form the basis for trails, sites, and many of the links within the network. They are important for protecting the region's water, air, and soil and providing opportunities for recreation, physical fitness, health, and food production.



**HALF CENT
SALES TAX
CHARLESTON COUNTY**



Charleston County Transportation Sales Tax



November 2004 - \$1.3 billion:

- **\$221 million for Greenbelts**



November 2016 - \$2.1 billion:

- **\$210 million for Greenbelts**

<http://www.charlestoncountygreenbelt.org>

Lowcountry Life



Where the Green Goes 2004 Sales Tax

\$221 Million

\$36 Million
County
Parklands

\$66.5 Million
Rural Greenbelt
Program

\$28.5 Million
Urban
Greenbelt
Program

\$90 Million
Debt Service and
Program
Administration

Where the Green Goes 2016 Sales Tax

\$210 Million



**\$100 Million
Rural Greenbelt
Program**



**\$100 Million
Urban
Greenbelt
Program**

**The Greenbelt Plan recommended conservation of
30% of Charleston County's resources by 2031.**

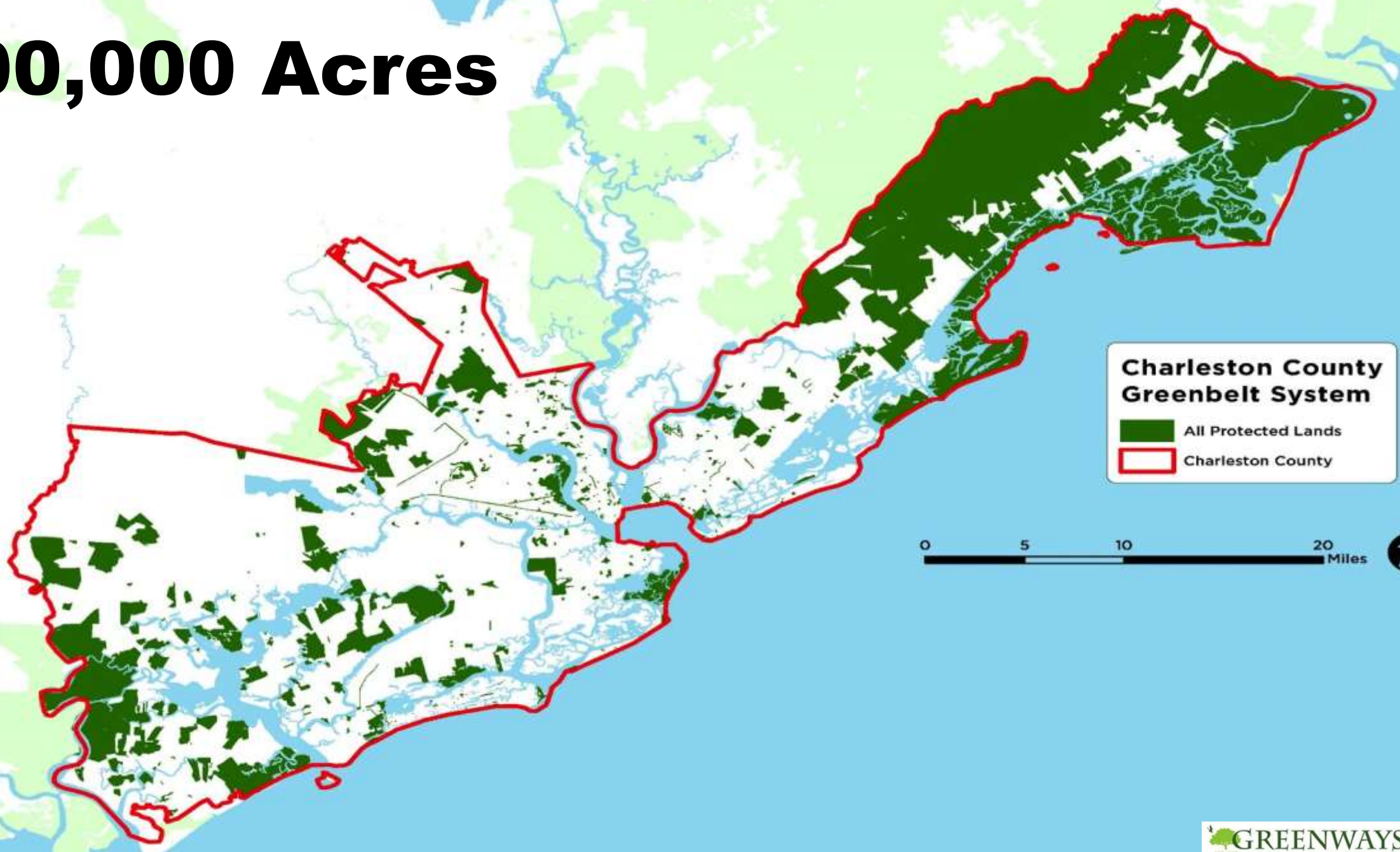
**Conserved to date 40,000 acres
of greenspace**

Greenbelt Project Goals

Protecting 40,000 acres through the following system components:

- 16,240 acres of rural greenbelt lands
- 10,275 acres in Francis Marion National Forest
- 5,610 acres of Lowcountry wetlands
- 4,675 acres of Park and Recreation Commission-owned lands
- 2,000 acres of urban greenbelt lands
- 1,200 acres of greenway corridors

200,000 Acres



**Charleston County
Greenbelt System**

-  All Protected Lands
-  Charleston County



Greenbelt Program Notes

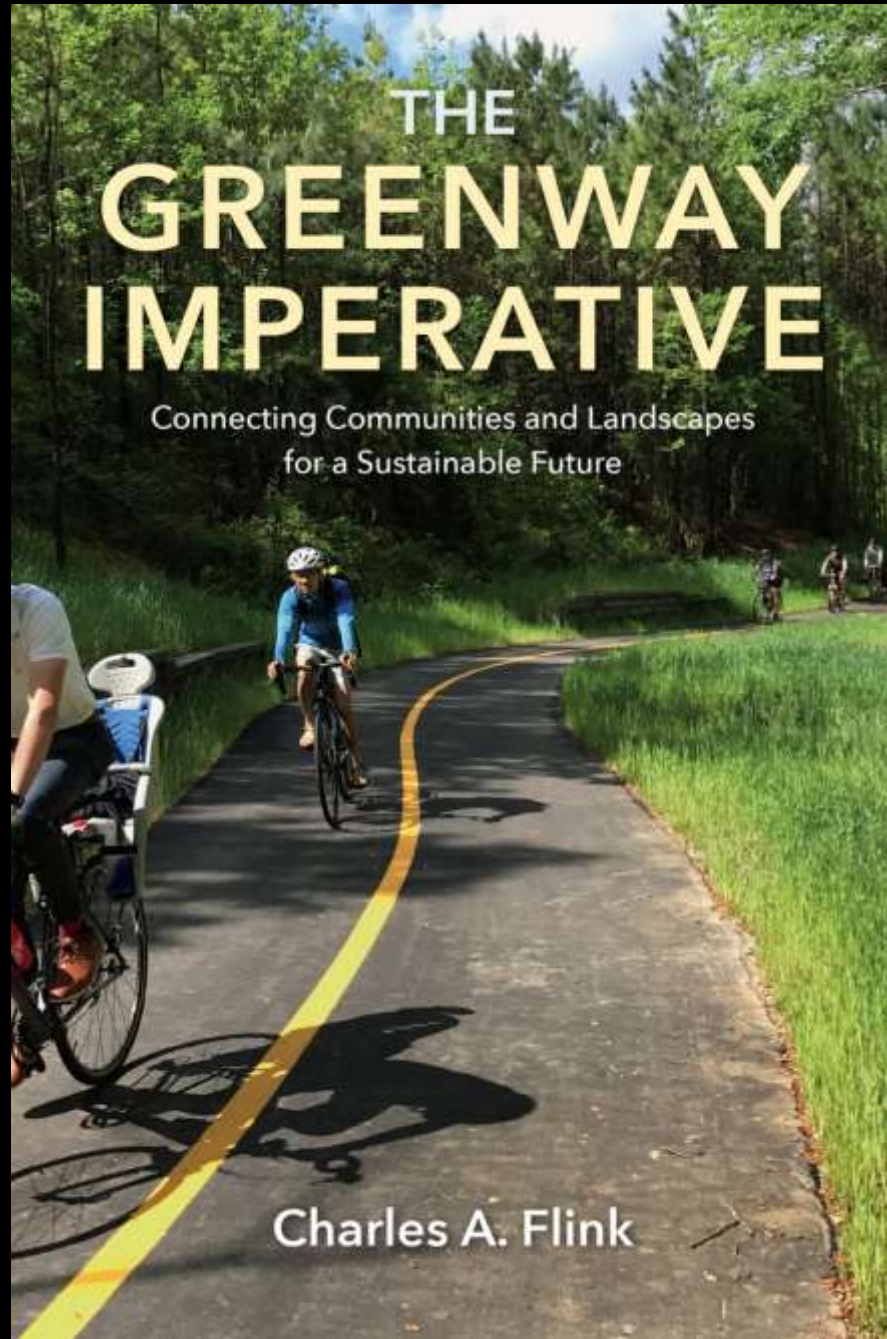
- Approximately 67% of Charleston County is in a FEMA flood hazard area. Protected land acts as a sponge to absorb floodwater and filter runoff, reducing the need for expensive stormwater infrastructure and protecting surrounding water quality.
- South Carolina fisheries and ocean-based tourism support almost 79,000 jobs and generate over \$4.4 billion in GDP each year in South Carolina.
- In 2017, 6.9 million visitors came to Charleston County, and tourism generated \$7.37 billion in economic impact.

Greenbelt Program Notes

- Charleston County's greenbelt program has completed more than 200 separate land conservation transactions.
- in 2006, The Charleston County Comprehensive Greenbelt Plan was named the South Carolina American Planning Association's **Outstanding Planning Project for Large Jurisdictions.**
- In 2009, the Greenbelt Program received the **United States Forest Service's Partnership Award.**

An aerial photograph of a town at sunset. A large steel truss bridge spans a wide river. In the foreground, a circular monument with a conical top sits on a paved area with benches. The town in the background features various buildings, including a large commercial center with a green roof, and is surrounded by lush green trees. The sky is a mix of orange, pink, and blue.

Develop Resilient Communities



Chapter Two: *Come Hell and High Water;* Greater Grand Forks Greenway, North Dakota

Grand Forks Greenway, North Dakota







Design + Engineering Principles for Grand Forks Greenway

- Demolish 694 private homes and 493 non-residential structures
- Relocate 161 private homes and 414 non-residential structures
- Convert 2,200 acres into public greenspace
- Build 20 miles of multi-purpose trails
- Reopen public parks, wildlife and memorial landscapes
- Build an “invisible” flood wall in East Grand Forks, MN
- Build bicycle and pedestrian bridges across Red River
- Program the Greenway for year round use and activity



50,000 attended first "Greenway Day" in 2003

Red River State Recreation Area, MN

Memorial Landscape



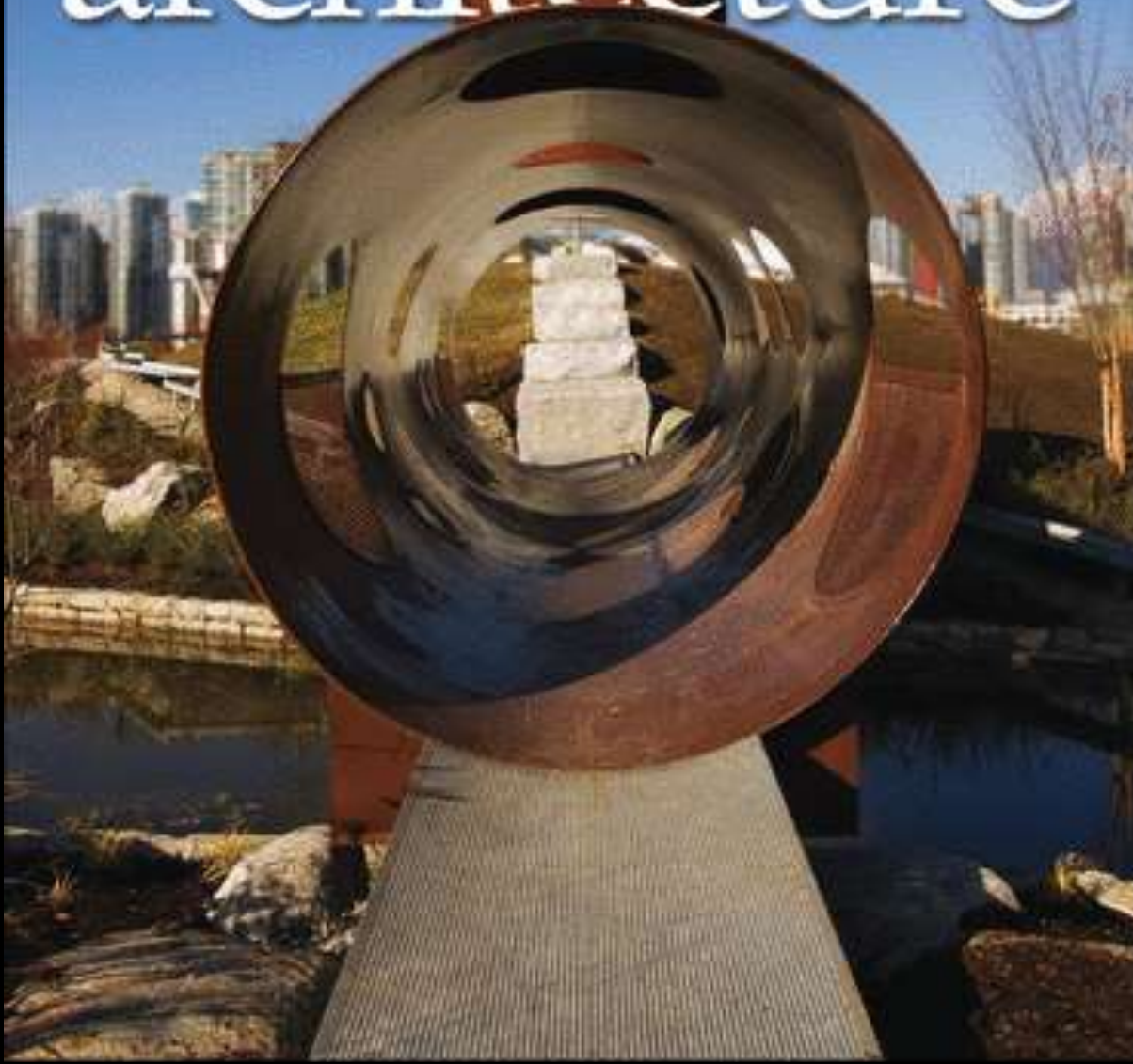
Programmable Landscape



Floodable Landscape

landscape architecture

THE MAGAZINE OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS



“about the best example we have to date” when it comes to flood protection as a public amenity

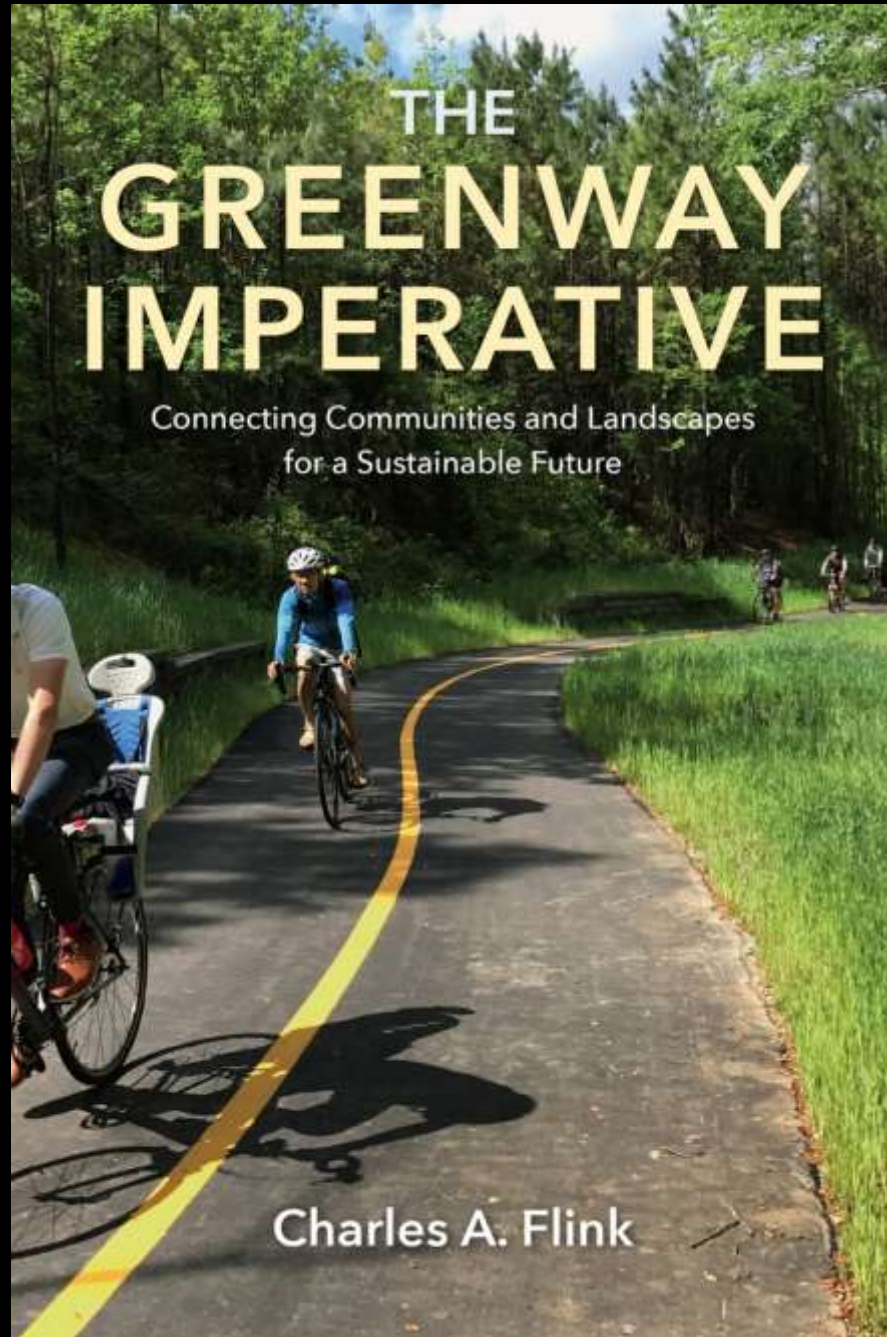
Kevin Holden, US Army Corps of Engineers

Grand Forks Greenway Notes

- Total flood control project is valued at \$400 million, with the federal government paying 50%, North Dakota and Minnesota paying for 30% and Grand Forks and East Grand Forks paying the remainder.
- The FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program projects are valued at more than \$18 million in Grand Forks.
- The National Flood Insurance Program paid out claims total more than \$75 million.
- Greg Wilz, Director of Homeland Security said, “*North Dakota has realized 20 years of benefit from the investments made in mitigation efforts after the 1997 flood. **The payback has been huge.***”

A group of people, including adults and a child, are riding bicycles on a dirt trail through a lush green forest. The scene is captured from a low angle, showing the front of the bikes and the riders' heads and shoulders. The background is filled with tall, thin trees and dense foliage, creating a sense of being deep in a wooded area. The lighting is bright and natural, suggesting a sunny day.

Change the Culture of Communities



Chapter Eight: *Callin the Hogs*; NW Arkansas Razorback Greenway



Northwest Arkansas, USA



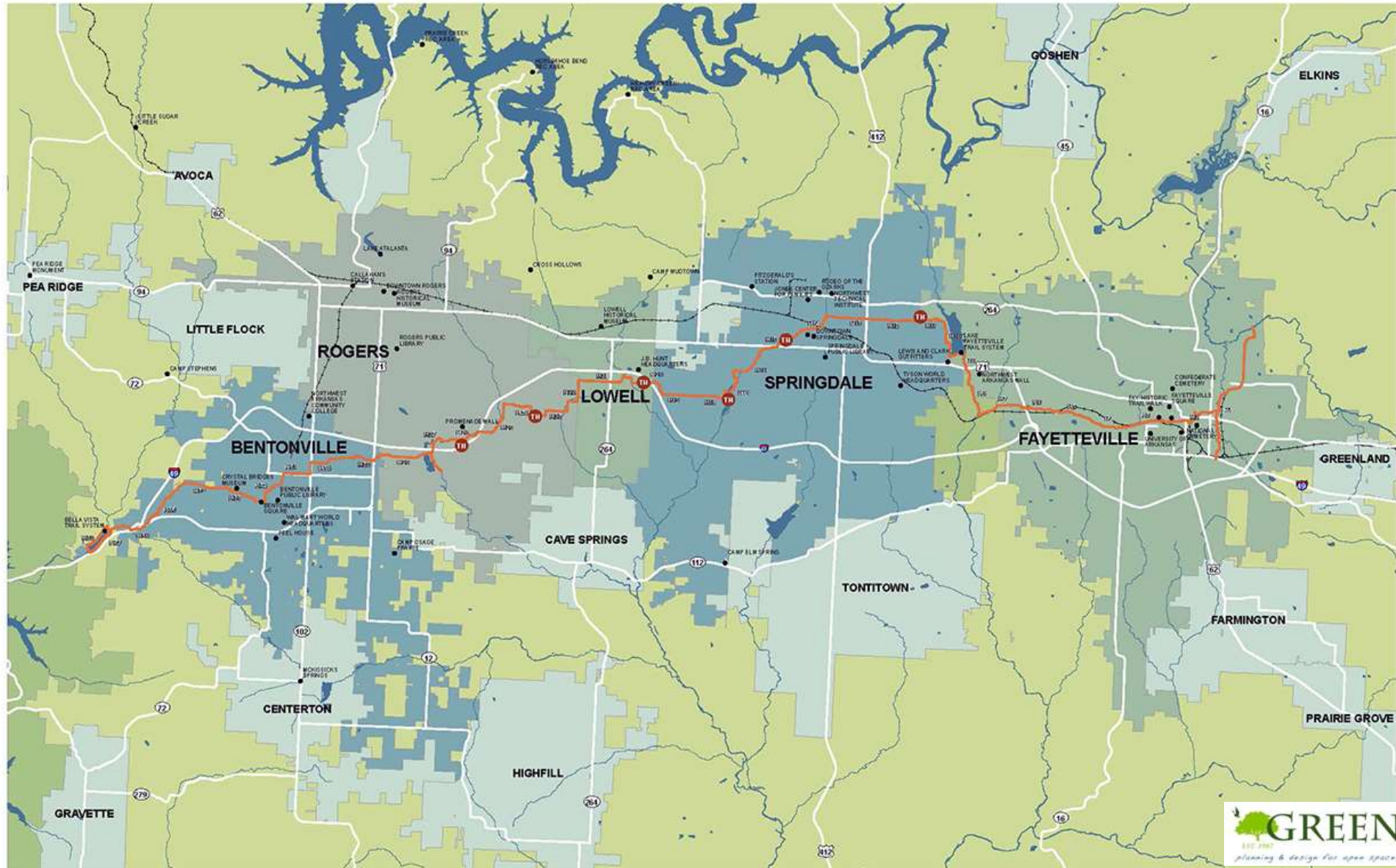
RAZORBACK GREENWAY



 TRAIL

 TRAILHEAD

 MILE MARKER



NW Arkansas Razorback Regional Greenway









Leveraged Funding Strategy

Primary Funding – Greenway Trail

- Walton Family Foundation - \$12 million
- TIGER 2 Grant - \$20 million

Baseline: \$32 million

Leveraged Funding

- **City of Rogers – Enhancements Grant**
 - \$270,000 – Mercy Hospital Trailhead
 - \$200,000 – Mercy Hospital In-kind donation
- **City of Springdale TCSP Grant**
 - \$400,000 – Sanders Ave. Trailhead
 - \$342,000 WFF in-kind donation
- **City of Fayetteville – Trails Funding**
 - \$108,000 – Home Depot Foundation
 - \$250,000 – City Funds

A close-up photograph of several yellow, cylindrical buttons or tokens scattered on a surface. The buttons are numbered in red ink. Visible numbers include 60, 40, 20, and 30. The background is a warm, golden-brown color, and the lighting creates soft shadows and highlights on the buttons.

Leverage Funding

- **City of Springdale – Lake Springdale Trailhead**
 - Endeavor Foundation - \$350,000 grant
 - TAP Grant- \$125,000 grant
 - City of Springdale - \$150,000 in-kind
- **EPA 319 Water Quality Grant**
 - Illinois River Watershed Alliance - \$250,000
- **National Urban Forestry Grant**
 - Illinois River Watershed Alliance - \$50,000



Total Funding for Razorback Greenway

\$42 million in public and private funding

Walmart 



UNIVERSITY OF
ARKANSAS



Tyson Foods, Inc.

What is a Rain Garden?

Rain gardens are a type of green infrastructure - a landscape with a purpose. They are bowl-shaped landscapes that are meant to capture, not hold, rain for 24-48 hours, eliminating the possibility for mosquitoes.

They capture rain and let it slowly soak into the ground, reducing the amount of runoff that comes from our properties. They come in all shapes and sizes and are versatile. Native plants work best as they are adapted to our region, attract and offer benefits to wildlife, and root systems of native plants help water infiltrate into the ground.

There are many rain gardens in our area, go check one out!

Rain Garden Project Locations

Bentonville, AR

1. Benton County Boys and Girls Club
2. Benton County Planning & Environmental
3. Bentonville Public Library
4. Benton County Road Dept.
5. Benton County Solid Waste Dept.
6. Compton Gardens
7. Crystal Bridges/ "A" St. Trailhead

Rogers, AR

8. Downtown Rogers
9. Horsebarn Trailhead
10. Murphy Dog Park
11. Northwest Arkansas Community College
12. St. Mary's Center for Non-Profits

Cave Springs, AR

13. Community Building
14. IRWP Watershed Sanctuary

Siloam Springs, AR

15. White Water Recreation Park
16. John Brown University
17. Public Library

Springdale, AR

18. Bernice Young Elementary
19. Botanical Gardens of the Ozarks
20. Helen Tyson Middle School
21. Murphy Park
22. Shaw Elementary
23. Springdale Airport
24. Springdale Public Works
25. T.G. Smith Elementary
26. Walker Elementary
27. Westwood Elementary

Fayetteville, AR

28. Butterfield Trail Elementary
29. Gulley Park
30. Holt Middle School
31. Leverett Elementary
32. Sunshine House Pre-K
33. Tri-cycle Farms
34. Trinity United Methodist Church
35. Unity Church
36. Westside Water Treatment Plant
37. Wilson Park

Farmington, AR

38. Randall G. Lynch Middle School

Prairie Grove, AR

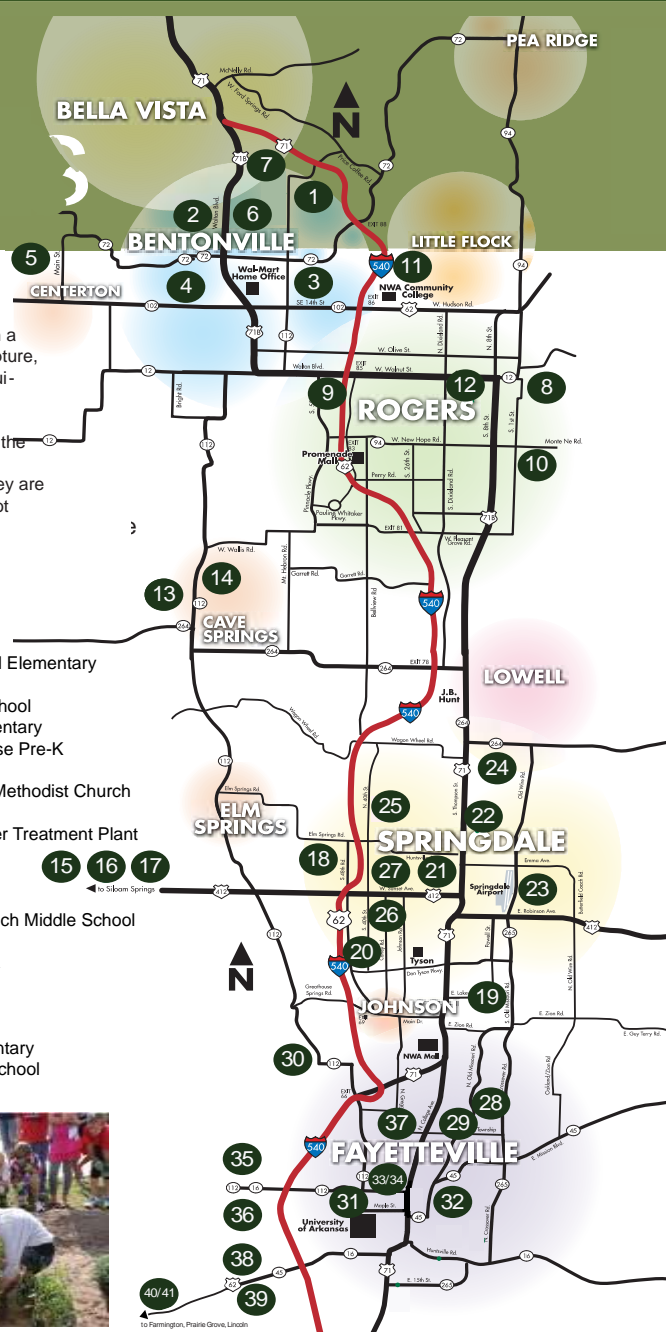
39. Senior Center

Lincoln, AR

40. Lincoln Elementary
41. Lincoln High School



Shaw Elementary, Springdale, AR



What is Green Infrastructure?

Green infrastructure is an approach that communities can choose to maintain healthy waters, provide multiple environmental benefits and support sustainable communities. Unlike single-purpose gray stormwater infrastructure, which uses pipes to dispose of rainwater, green infrastructure uses vegetation and soil to manage rainwater where it falls. Examples of green infrastructure include rain gardens, bioswales, pervious paving, tree wells and vegetated walls, to name a few. Refer to the back to see more on green infrastructure.

By weaving natural processes into the built environment, green infrastructure provides not only stormwater management, but also flood mitigation, air quality management, and much more. (US. EPA)

Thanks to our non-point source grant funding, provided by Arkansas Natural Resources Commission, and matching funds provided by our partners and sponsors, we are working to implement green infrastructure along the Razorback Regional Greenway in the Illinois River Watershed. Find a location near you to see first-hand how these projects capture rain, filter and clean pollutants and provide many benefits to our communities!

Green Infrastructure Project Locations

Bentonville, AR

Scott Family Amazeum

To be completed Summer 2015

Rogers, AR

Mercy Trailhead

Completed Spring 2014

Springdale, AR

Lake Springdale Trailhead

To be completed Summer 2015

Fayetteville, AR

Gordon Long Park Trailhead

To be completed Fall 2015

Johnson, AR

Carol E. Van Scyoc Trailhead

To be completed Spring 2015

Gentry, AR

Arvest Bank

Completed Spring 2015



Rogers Mercy Trailhead

Award-winning, green infrastructure design incorporates a bioswale, pervious pathway, native plants and trees, and riparian enhancement along a tributary to Osage Creek.

The Illinois River Watershed Partnership works with Cities, Counties, Schools and Public Facilities to implement Green Infrastructure demonstration projects to educate and train stakeholders on improving and protecting the Illinois River Watershed.





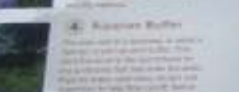
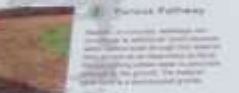
Green Infrastructure for Clean Water

What is Green Infrastructure?

Green infrastructure is a network of natural and semi-natural areas that manage water and provide environmental and social benefits. It includes parks, green roofs, permeable pavements, and other water-sensitive designs that mimic natural processes to absorb, store, and filter rainwater and stormwater runoff.

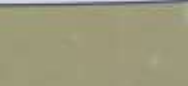
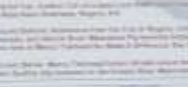
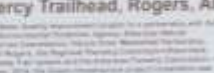
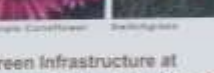
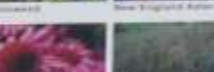


Benefits: Reduces stormwater runoff, improves water quality, reduces urban heat island effect, provides habitat for wildlife, and improves air quality.



To learn more about Green Infrastructure, visit www.epa.gov/greeninfrastructure.

Native Plants for Water Quality



The Illinois River Watershed

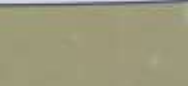
The Illinois River Watershed Partnership, formed in 2005, is a non-profit organization with the mission to improve the integrity of the Illinois River through public education and community outreach, water quality monitoring, and the implementation of conservation and restoration practices throughout the watershed.



The Partnership is supported by a range of stakeholders, including Agriculture, Business, Conservation, Construction, Government, & the Technical/Research and Education fields.



For more information, visit www.illinoisriverwatershed.org or call 800-345-2345.









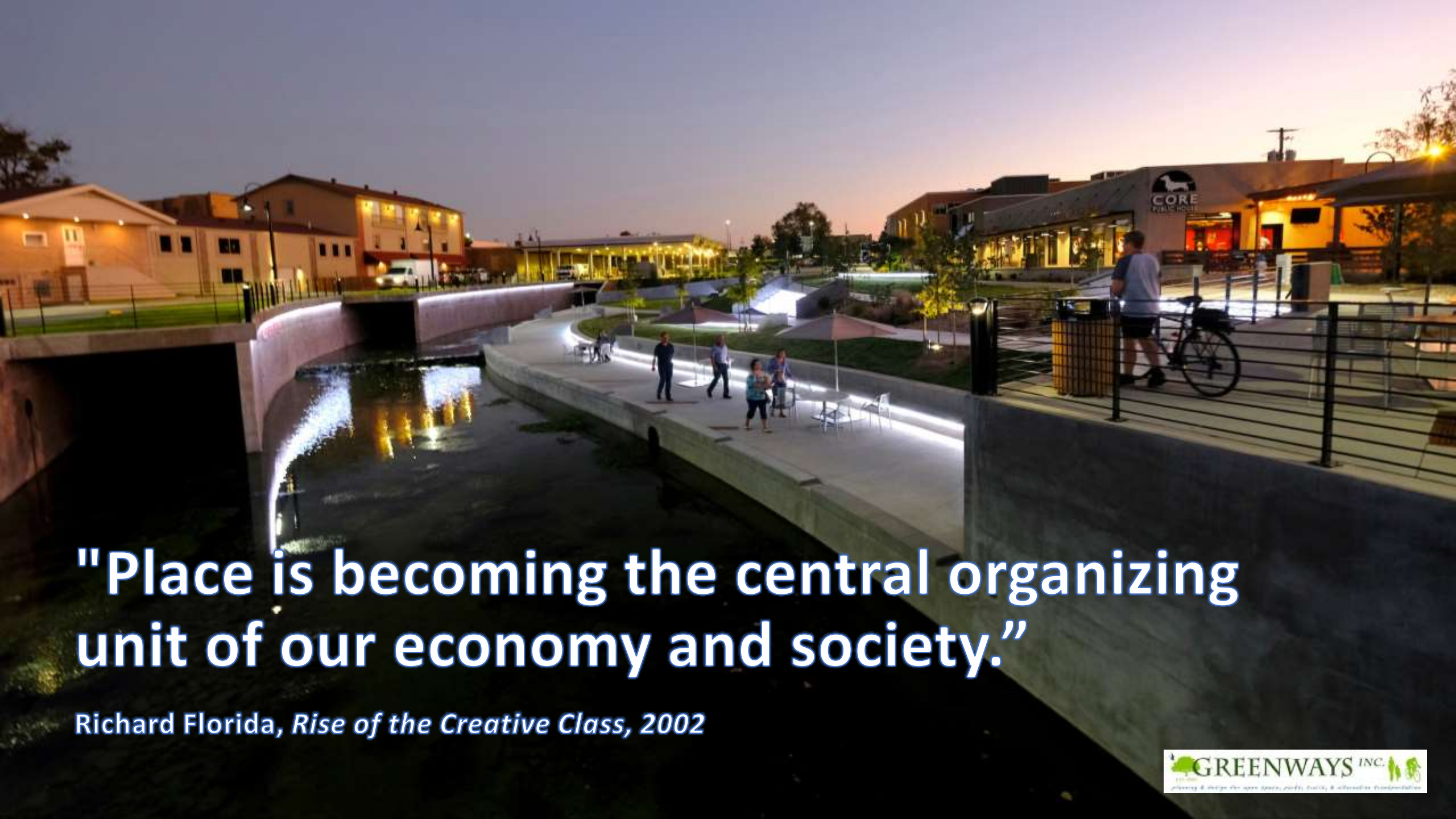


. . . Corridor for Migrating Monarch Butterfly's





Case Study: Walter Turbow Park, Springdale, AR



"Place is becoming the central organizing unit of our economy and society."

Richard Florida, *Rise of the Creative Class*, 2002











“Downtown Springdale will be a focus for technology,” Tyson CEO Tom Hayes said. “We see that as a place for us to really center everything technology. Also, I’ll put the plug in: restaurants, bars, we need more because that’s what people want. They want to walk around and enjoy lunch. Right now, there’s like two or three places they can go to, and they need a lot more.”







Accomplishments of Razorback Greenway

- 38 miles of connected trail
- Links together six communities in two counties
- Trail connects to 36 public schools and University of Arkansas
- Trail goes through 3 downtowns
- Trail links three of largest employers: WalMart, Tysons and JB Hunt
- Trail is within ½ mile of 20% of region's residents (70,000 people)
- Trail is within ½ mile of 40% of employed people (80,000 people)
- Trail links to Crystal Bridges Museum, Ozark Botanical Garden, Shiloh Museum
- Trail connected to two large regional hospitals



Great American Outdoors Act

What does GAOA Fund?

- Much-needed maintenance for critical facilities and infrastructure in our national parks, wildlife refuges, recreation areas, and Bureau of Indian Education (BIE)-funded schools.
- The **National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund** (GAOA LRF) to address the deferred maintenance and repair (DM&R) backlog on public lands. It was authorized at up to \$1.9 billion annually for five years from fiscal year 2021 to fiscal year 2025.
- Permanent full funding for the **Land and Water Conservation Fund** of \$900 million annually.

What does GAOA Fund?

- **Recreational Assets** include monuments, memorials, campgrounds, parks, historic sites, refuges, comfort stations, visitor centers, and other structures used for recreational purposes.
- **Mission Support and Administration Assets** include storage and warehouse facilities, offices, laboratories, agricultural assets, and other assets critical to supporting bureau missions.
- **Non-Transportation Infrastructure Assets** include utility systems, irrigation and flood control assets, communication systems, and other industrial assets.
- **Transportation Assets** include roads, bridges, dedicated parking structures, and other critical transportation infrastructure.

Example: North Carolina

- Since 1965, the LWCF program has provided more than **\$85 million** in matching grants to protect land and support more than **900** state and local park projects. More than **40,000 acres** have been acquired with LWCF assistance.
- The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) provides dollar-for-dollar matching grants to local governments for the acquisition or renovation of existing parks previously developed with LWCF assistance. A local government can request a maximum of **\$500,000** with each application.

Example: North Carolina

- North Carolina counties and incorporated municipalities are eligible for LWCF grants. Federally recognized Native American tribes are also eligible.
- LWCF grants can be used to **acquire land** for a public park; to develop outdoor recreation and support facilities; or a combination of both. A project must be **located on a single site**.
- An applicant must match the grant with a minimum of 50 percent. Due to a federal share cap of \$500,000, a greater match is required for projects that exceed total costs of \$1 million.
- An applicant **must own the park property**. Property acquired or developed with LWCF assistance must be used for public outdoor recreation use in perpetuity.



INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT AND JOBS ACT

PASSES THE SENATE



Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act

- **\$1.2 trillion for infrastructure improvements:** roads, bridges, passenger and freight rail, transportation safety, transit, broadband, ports and waterways, airports, drinking water and wastewater, and energy, among other initiatives.
- Reauthorizes Surface Transportation Act for another 5 years.
- **\$12.5 billion for National Infrastructure Investments grants,** previously known as TIGER and BUILD grants.
- 70% more money, \$1.4 billion, available for Transportation Alternatives Program
- \$ 1 billion in active transportation earmarks

Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act

- \$1 billion a year for ***Safe Streets and Roads for All*** grant program to support local initiatives
- \$100 million a year for a new ***Healthy Streets*** grant program to “deploy cool pavements and porous pavements” to mitigate urban heat islands, improve air quality, and reduce stormwater runoff
- \$1 billion over five years for a new ***Reconnecting Communities*** competitive grant program, \$200 million for planning and \$800 million for construction

What does the IIJA Fund?

- The legislation is the largest investment in the resilience of physical and natural systems in American history. IIJA will invest more than **\$50 billion** to protect against droughts, heat, floods and wildfires.
- National Institute of Building Sciences (NIBS) finds that **for every \$1 spent on resilience, communities save \$5 to 7 in disaster response and recovery.**
- The bill will invest \$21 billion clean up Superfund and brownfield sites, reclaim abandoned mine land and cap orphaned oil and gas wells to remediate environmental harms and advance environmental justice.
- Will benefit communities of color as, it has been found that 26% of Black Americans and 29% of Hispanic Americans live within 3 miles of a Superfund site, a higher percentage than for Americans overall.



Closing Thoughts – Carbon Sequestration

- Green Infrastructure is the most important infrastructure going forward
- We need to conserve and regenerate forests, grasslands, wetlands, marshes and other ecologically significant landscapes
- Not enough funding or investment is happening currently to offset human impact

Leave a Legacy for Future Generations



**“To build a Greenway is to build a
Community”**

Charles Little

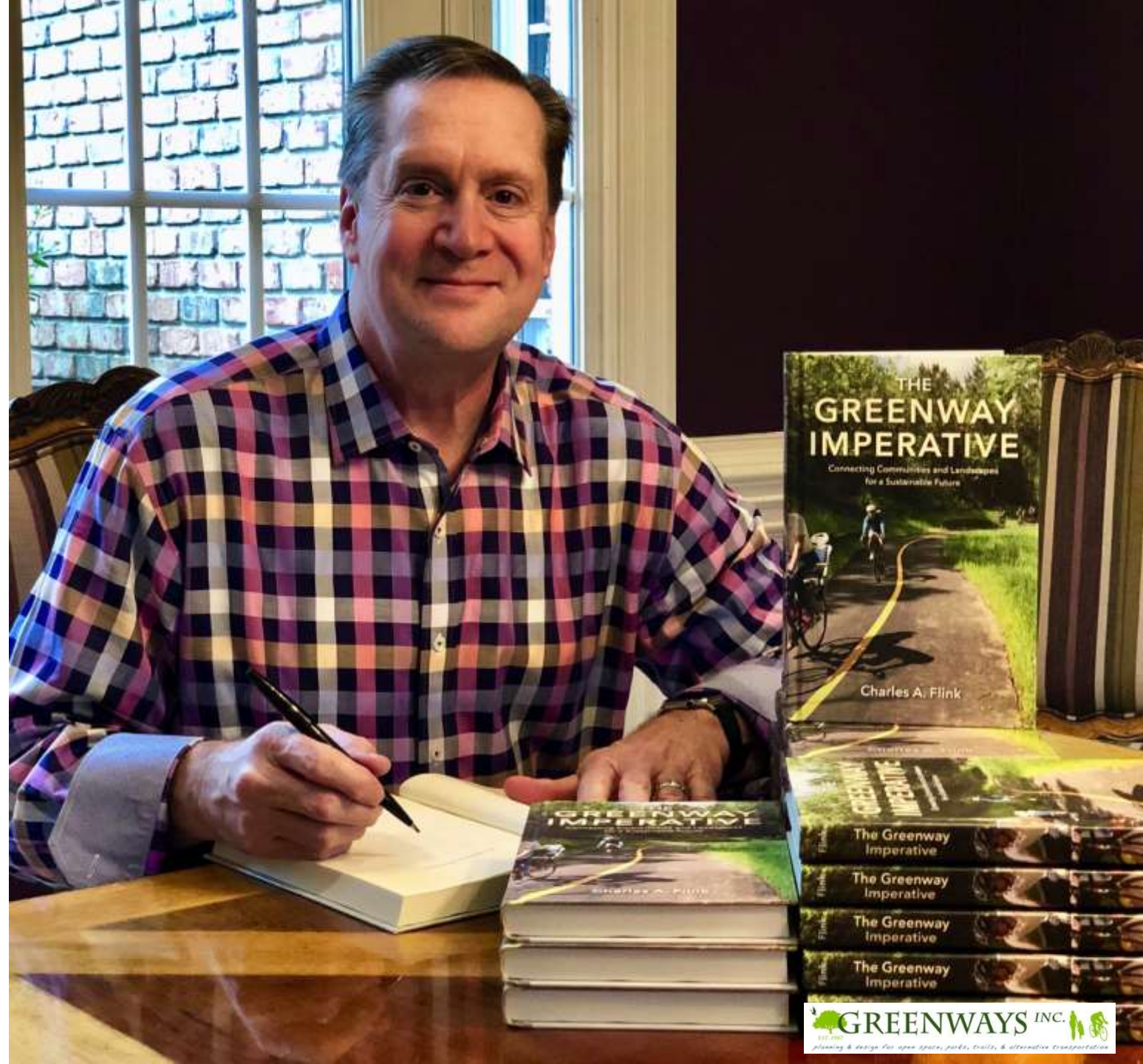
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