



Green Infrastructure Conference

August 26, 2010 Ramada Palms, Las Cruces, New Mexico



The Watershed Coordinator for the Lower Rio Grande 319(h) project attended the regional Green Infrastructure Conference hosted by the City of Las Cruces entitled “Green Infrastructure in the Southwest: Challenges and Opportunities”. The 200 attendees included local professionals in planning, engineering, and design as well as City Councilors, State Legislators, and Congressman Harry Teague. Several members of the Paso del Norte Watershed Council were either presenters or attendees. Participants learned about techniques and tools for managing stormwater in ways that more closely align with the natural hydrology and ecology, and in the process often improve water quality. Green infrastructure can also have many ancillary benefits that contribute to a healthy environment, including reductions in flooding and urban heat island effect, increased groundwater recharge, habitat provisions, improved air quality, mitigation for global warming.

Green infrastructure is an approach to stormwater management that can be cost-effective, sustainable, and environmentally friendly. Green infrastructure approaches and technologies can provide infiltration, evapotranspiration, and ability to capture and reuse stormwater.

Additional information on green infrastructure:

www.epa.gov/greeninfrastructure.

For information concerning green infrastructure in Las Cruces:

www.las-cruces.org/council/sustainability.asp.

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