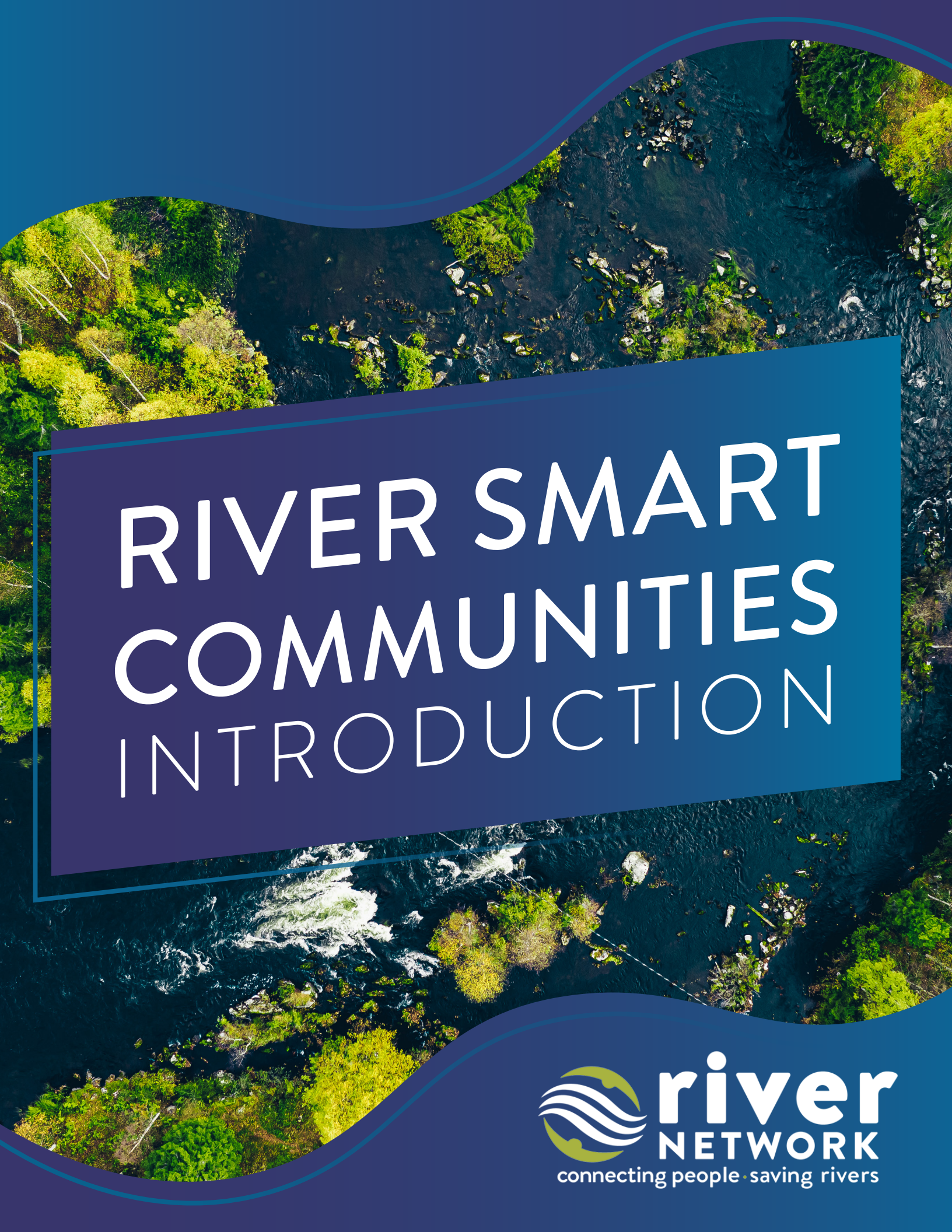


RIVER SMART COMMUNITIES
INTRODUCTION

river NETWORK
connecting people · saving rivers



RIVER SMART COMMUNITIES

THE BENEFITS

Colorado's rivers — our natural infrastructure — are the lifeblood of our communities and natural environments. River corridors, including their floodplains, riparian areas, wetlands, and connected aquifers, sustain agriculture and recreation, provide drinking water, and power our economy. A healthy river corridor can increase property values, reduce flood risk, offer recreational opportunities and boost tourism, provide quality water supplies, and support robust biodiversity.

THE PROBLEM

Rivers in the Western United States are facing increasing pressure from climate uncertainty, outdated one-size-fits-all policies and practices, and inconsistent management approaches that reduce the ability of rivers and their adjacent floodplains to provide ecosystem and community benefits.

The plans, policies, and regulations that affect river management — ranging from climate adaptation and resiliency initiatives to land use development and hazard mitigation — are typically developed by different agencies, departments, and organizations. River management is therefore often scatted across multiple departments in local, regional, state, and federal agencies. This siloed approach often produces different and conflicting river management goals and plans. This complex web ultimately stifles coordination among stakeholders and hinders integrated river management.

THE SOLUTION

River Network's **River Smart Communities** program offers a coordinated approach to river planning and management including:

- shared river vision
- collaborative roadmap
- opportunities for integrated management between sectors



GET IN TOUCH!

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WHAT DOES THIS PROCESS LOOK LIKE?

To support communities at every stage of their river smart journey, River Network offers:



Facilitated workshops



Practical Tools



Technical Assistance and Guidance

IS BECOMING A RIVER SMART COMMUNITY RIGHT FOR US?

Your answers to these questions will help River Network customize an approach that best fits your needs using resources designed to support communities at every stage of their river smart journey.

CONTEXT:

- Is your river facing pressure from **land use, over allocation, flooding, recreation conflicts, water quality, development, growth, or other issues**?
- Are current efforts to address these concerns in your community **limited** or **fragmented**?
- Are you looking to reduce your risks from **natural disasters**?
- Are there **competing demands and interests** around your river?

AVAILABLE RESOURCES:

- Is coordination around river management **lacking** or **inconsistent**?
- Are you limited by **time, staff capacity, or resources** when it comes to integrated river management?
- Do you want to integrate your river management but **not know where to begin**?
- Do your existing plans that impact river management need **better integration**?

TEAM:

- Do you have **one or two champions** for improving river coordination?
- Is there **broader interest** in more collaborative integrated river management?
- Would you like to try to **formalize cross-departmental coordination** around river health?

READY TO GET STARTED?

1 Get Started	2 Complete a Readiness Quiz	3 Hold a Workshop	4 Develop a Roadmap	5 Take Action
Community - provides information, gathers stakeholders				
• Review the first 10 steps • Contact River Network to learn more	• Assess your current status by taking a Readiness Quiz	• Conduct engagement • Participate in a workshop	• Define a vision • Build out a roadmap	• Implement the roadmap
Facilitator - works with and supports the community through every step				
• Conduct an intake call • Gather context	• Design custom quiz • Interpret quiz results	• Design custom workshop based on quiz • Facilitate the workshop	• Provide technical assistance on the Roadmap	• Available as needed for technical assistance with implementation
River Smart Resources - which tools can help support you at each step of the way				
Introduction	Readiness Quiz	Companion & Guidebook	Companion & Guidebook	Companion & Guidebook

River Network developed a series of resources to help communities.

The ***Readiness Quiz*** will assess your community's strengths and growth areas to inform your river smart journey.

The ***Getting Started Companion*** creates a template to practice integrated river management following the principles.

The ***River Smart Communities Guidebook*** offers technical assistance for practicing integrated river management, centered around land use management, hazard mitigation, water resource management, and river health.

LET'S GO! YOUR FIRST 10 STEPS What can one person with no budget actually do in the early days?

Identify your champion, the one person willing to carry this forward (Psst! If you're reading this, it may be you!).	
Make a short list of allies. Three to five people across departments or organizations who might care and help you push things forward.	
Have three coffees. One-on-one conversations with your allies or potential partners about what they see, what they're working on, what frustrates them.	
Identify one shared concern. Find an issue that more than one of your allies cares about.	
Convene a first conversation. A 60-minute loosely structured meeting with three to five people to compare notes and assess your shared level of commitment. Begin to imagine what a holistically managed river would look like for your community.	
List the people whose work touches the river corridor. Think about sector stakeholders across land use, hazard mitigation, water resources, and river health.	
Contact River Network for an exploratory conversation to learn more.	
Collect data that already exists. Begin to pull together plans, studies, and reports your community has that may impact the river such as a comprehensive plan, hazard mitigation plan, watershed plan, or water quality data.	
Decide what comes next. Workshop with a facilitator? Larger group? Pursue funding for a coordinator?	

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