

## Meeting Summary

Date: February 25, 2014 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM

Subject: Cannon Road Green Streets, WRE 12-15  
Public Meeting

Attendees: **21 Total**

### Project Team Members (Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection = DEP):

<u>Name</u>	<u>Affiliation</u>	<u>Role</u>
Doug Streaker, PE (DS)	DEP	Project Manager
Jennifer St. John (JS)	DEP	Project Planner
Craig Carson (CC)	DEP	Watershed Restoration Program Manager
Paul Bogle (PB)	DEP	Project Engineer
Justin Thompson, PE (JT)	Stantec	Design Engineer
Kathleen Dahill, RLA (KD)	Stantec	Landscape Architect

### Other Staff (Department of Transportation = DOT):

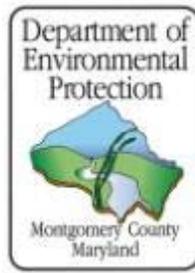
<u>Name</u>	<u>Affiliation</u>	<u>Role</u>
John Birton (JB)	DOT	Division of Highway Services Construction Supervisor
Adam Derrick (AD)	DOT	Division of Highway Services Construction Inspector

Venue: Cannon Road Elementary School Cafeteria

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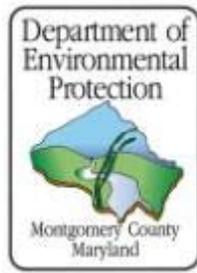
Project team members DS, JS, and JT presented a slide show about the Cannon Road Green Streets Project. DEP has completed a preliminary assessment of the neighborhoods and has identified potential Green Streets opportunity locations for small-scale stormwater practices within street right of way areas. The presenters described the Watershed Restoration program and what Green Streets are and why they are needed. Examples of various types of Green Street practices were presented. The project area and boundaries were displayed and the results of the preliminary assessment were described. Opportunity maps showing Green Streets types and proposed locations were presented in the slide show and displayed as exhibits around the room for open discussion and questions from the community. Refer to the PDF slide show for more details.

The following is a summary of the public comments provided during and after Green Streets presentation, with some additional clarifications added as needed to fully address each question.

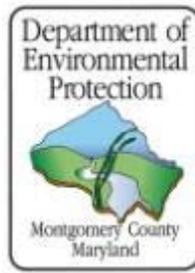


### Comments:

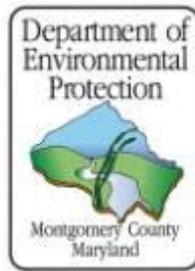
- Resident stated that thick clay is typical soil found by residence. One person did a “perc test” himself and found water did filtrate.
  - JS replied that yes, some clays soils will infiltrate water and that all proposed Green Street locations (that are not eliminated from preliminary assessment investigations) will have soil borings taken to determine infiltration capacity, depth to groundwater, and other characteristics at each site.
- Resident expressed concern with possible street closure during construction; some roads are very narrow. They requested the phone number of the project manager at county to contact regarding this issue.
  - DS replied that closures will only be done one lane at a time, with traffic control in place to maintain traffic flow. All questions should be directed to Doug Streaker (240-499-8531), or Jennifer St. John (240-777-7740).
- Resident asked, will street repair be part of this project? They also stated that DOT and the county should work together to fix streets.
  - DS replied that street repair is not a direct part of this project, but will be coordinated with DOT. However, you can contact DOT and make them aware of any street repairs you identify. The DOT contact is John Birton, who can be reached at 240-777-7616 or [john.birton@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:john.birton@montgomerycountymd.gov).
- Resident asked, are there any plans for road improvement? Or will they just patch problem areas?
  - JB from DOT stated that we need to perform an assessment survey of the roads.
- Resident stated, someone is going to get hurt from the pot holes. Pot holes are huge, it’s an emergency situation.
  - CC replied, call 3-1-1 to report potholes to DOT. The online form is available at <http://www3.montgomerycountymd.gov/311/SolutionView.aspx?SolutionId=1-234ONR>. Generally, potholes are inspected and repaired within 3 business days.
- Resident stated since street work will create dirty runoff and could damage the new facilities, shouldn’t they repair roads first?
  - CC replied that DEP will be coordinating all work with DOT and vice versa. Protective measures may be taken to block Green Street practices during major roadway rehabilitation work. While it may be nice to install our practices to match the new road grades and to avoid damage from roadway construction activities, we want to avoid having to rip out new pavement, curb and gutter.



- Resident asked, can you angle the swales?
  - DS replied, the existing swales are located within right-of-way, adjacent to roadways. Any proposed practices will remain within general footprint of swales to convey water from the roadway.
  
- Resident commented that water is not draining from the road into existing swales and that they need to work with DOT to correct drainage.
  - JS replied yes over time the edge of the road where it meets the grass shoulder becomes a “lip” and inhibits flow from the roadway onto the grass swales. This will be corrected in the green street designs to improve flow of the roadway to the swales. Also, DEP will coordinate with DOT to document drainage issues with existing road grades to be corrected as part of future roadway rehabilitation efforts.
  
- What is difference between grass swale and bio-swale?
  - JS replied, there is little difference between a grass swale and bioswale in this application. Both contain enhanced subsurface soil media to promote infiltration along the flowpath. The difference is the finished surface of the swale. A grass swale is covered in turf grass, and a bioswale is planted with native vegetation. DEP’s preference is to use native vegetation because it provides a greater root depth to promote better infiltration and uptake of water and nutrients, provides a greater amount of evapo-transpiration, taller vegetation will slow flow velocity runoff, provides pollinator habitat and a buffer from turfed areas, and prevents fertilizer, pesticide, and herbicide from being spread in the swale.
  
- Resident asked, what is the life span of swales?
  - DS replied, with proper maintenance, these practices are expected to last indefinitely. As with any infrastructure, regular maintenance is needed to maintain functionality. Over a long period of time (10+ years), the soil media may need to be replaced based on site condition. This more significant maintenance would also be performed by DEP.
  
- Resident questioned, who will maintain these facilities?
  - DS stated, that all Green Street practices will be maintained by DEP. Green Streets practices will be visited monthly on average. In the beginning, visits may be more frequent for watering and weeding, until the plants become established.
  
- Resident was concerned that grass won’t grow in the swales due to trees, salt, and clay soil.
  - JS stated that tolerant grasses would be used based on site conditions. Vegetation selection at each practice will depend on many variables, including amount of sunlight, salt tolerance, soil types, etc. These planting recommendations will occur after additional design is performed.

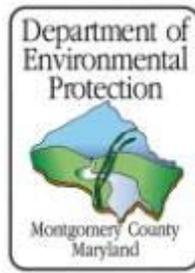


- Resident asked if anyone walked the streets during the assesement?
  - JT stated that, his team walked all the streets and noted utility locations, street trees and anything of significance which would impact the proposed design. There are still conditions to be considered for final location of practices, as they are still obtaining topography, utility location, and soil borings. Once obtained, designs will be developed based on all available information.
- Homeower asked how high are the mounds (check dams) in the swales?
  - DS stated that check dams will only be used as necessary. If necessary, we will try to keep these features to be as low (<6”), and as subtle as possible.
- Resident commented, there is a lot of parking on Cannon Road between the school and park events, particulary during drop-off and pick-up at the school, and was concerned about putting practices in the roadway that reduce parking.
  - DS replied that this is very useful information to hear from the community. For now, all opportunity locations have been identified. Final location of practices has not been decided and we will take parking demand into consideration.
- Resident questioned, can the new trees in Cannon Road right-of-way be retrofitted into bioretention facilities?
  - JS stated, typically bioretention facilities do not have large trees within the footprint. We will take locations of existing trees into consideration when locating practice locations.
- Resident suggests more plan review with public, have plan review prior to community walk, have plan reviews as plans evolve and include community in design review.
  - CC replied that the community site walk will include reviewing the design plans with the community while at each physical proposed location. This will allow the designer and community to discuss the designs directly with current conditions. Following the community site walk, all comments from the community will be considered in final plan development and posted on the DEP website for community review. If site specific concerns arise with an individual resident, DEP has been and will continue to meet with that resident to address the concern.
- Resident stated that using the DEP project website is a very passive way to share plans with community, and would like more direct interaction with the community.
  - CC replied that DEP interacts and shares information with the community in a variety of ways. The webpage is just one of the ways that we share information like site plans and project updates. It allows the community to see the progress of the project as it develops. Other ways DEP communicates with the public is through formal public meetings,



community site walks, and smaller (often one-on-one) meetings with residents. We are always available via phone or email to answer any questions as well.

- Resident stated that although the projects will be in the public right-of-way, the project outcome affects home owners because it is directly in front of their houses.
  - DS replied that DEP wants to be a good neighbor. We understand that implementing these practices will affect each resident within the community every day. We will design the practices with aesthetically pleasing landscaping with consideration to the adjacent property owner's preferences. Our intent is for the practice to be an amenity maintained by the County and not a burden on the resident.
  
- Resident questioned, what do you do about deer eating the plants?
  - JS replied, we select plantings that are "deer resistant" and in certain cases, especially during the plant establishment phase, we have the option to apply deer repellants or physical barriers like deer fencing or netting. So far, there hasn't been a problem in other Green Streets neighborhoods that have extensive deer populations (e.g. Forest Estates).
  
- Resident commented, my street is marked with paint.
  - DS stated, the field survey has started and as part of the survey, utilities were located and marked. The paint used in our surveys is temporary and should wash away after several rain events. There may be other entities that mark areas with paint during the course of our project. Feel free to check with us to see if the painting was from our project.
  
- Resident asked if elected officials are invited to public meetings?
  - JS replied, yes DEP invites elected officials (Regional Services Center Representative, Councilmember, State Delegate) to all public meetings.
  
- Resident questioned, the Rite Aid and post office generate a large amount of stormwater run-off. Were these properties included as part of this project?
  - DS stated, the Rite Aid and the post office are required to handle stormwater on their own property.
  
- Resident asked, how will the proposed vegetation within the practices be watered? They have been left to dry out and die in the past.
  - JS stated, the construction contractors will be responsible for the first year of watering and survival. They have water trucks that they can use to water the plants/sod as needed. It is in their best interest to water them so they don't die, because if they die, they will be responsible to replace them. After the plant warranties are over, DEP will maintain the vegetation within the right-of-way Green Street practices. This includes watering as needed in times of drought.



- Resident questioned if the construction contract has been issued? How long will the project take?
  - DS replied, we are in the concept design phase right now. Design phase will continue through Fall 2014. At that point, the project will be “bid out” or advertised to potential contractors, which takes approximately 30 days . Construction is estimated to begin winter 2014/spring 2015.
- Resident asked, when will the Hollywood Branch stream restoration begin?
  - JS stated that construction of the stream project should begin in May 2014 and be completed by October 2014. Notices will be mailed to residents at least 2 weeks prior to work starting.
- Resident suggested to involve the school in the project. There is educational value in it.
  - DS replied that DEP will consider this in future phases of the work.

#### Action Items:

- DEP will post all of the meeting presentation items on the DEP project webpage: [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/DEP/restoration/cannon-road.html](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/DEP/restoration/cannon-road.html)
- Additional questions for the Cannon Road Green Street Project can be directed to Doug Streaker. (240) 499-8531 [doug.streaker@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:doug.streaker@montgomerycountymd.gov)
- Additional questions regarding the Hollywood Branch stream restoration project can be directed to Jennifer St. John. (240) 777-7740. [Jennifer.St.John@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:Jennifer.St.John@montgomerycountymd.gov)