

Monroe Street Green Infrastructure Focus Group Meeting Notes



Date: June 14, 2017	Time: 3:00-4:30 p.m.
Recorded by: Zia Brucaya, Urban Assets	Attendees: Paul Dearlove (Clean Lakes Alliance), Ben Yahr (Friends of Lake Wingra), Laura Rozumalski (Freshwater Engineering), Peter Nause (DMNA), John Armstrong (WI DNR), Alder Eskrich, Jim Wolfe (City of Madison), Phil Gaebler (City of Madison)

Agenda Item	Discussion	To-Do
<p>Proposed Treatments</p>	<p>Phil Gaebler, City of Madison Water Resources Engineer, provided an update on the following proposed treatment options:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wingra Park screen structure and sand filter <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Just submitted a grant to Dane County to help pay for half of this structure. Proposing to add in the sand filter for a low-flow diversion, and use aluminum oxide to hold onto the phosphorous better. o The city parks department is not in favor of turning the outflow into an open water feature in the park. It would be a major change to the park features and they are not ready to do a master plan of the park at this time. They also want to be sensitive to the long-term enjoyment of visitors, knowing that a day-lighted feature could easily fall into disrepair. o The location would be roughly west of the soccer fields, south of the Arbor Drive circle. o Ben: Lauren Brown, Ben Yahr and Freshwater Engineering have developed some preliminary design options. Will share with Phil. Grading in a channel based on the topography would require a major change. o Peter: Are we painting ourselves into a corner now in terms of future options to daylight the feature? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Phil: We will be less limited the farther up toward Arbor Drive we go. o Peter: Can the outflow go into the natural area at the intersection of Arbor and Knickerbocker? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Phil: There would be issues with this related to chlorides and other pollutants. Volume may also be an issue. o Paul: What was the reason for proposing an open channel, beyond the educational component? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Phil: Main reasons/benefits were education and habitat. ▪ Ben: There are also potential cost savings if designed properly, but that is a stretch. o The underground treatment structure is the most cost-effective of the proposed green infrastructure features for this project, with perhaps the exception of the rain gardens. o The USGS is finding that screen structures create a 43% reduction in TSS. 	<p>Phil: Review Lauren Brown's sketches and make sure the final screen structure design is flexible re: future opportunities to daylight. Look into total volume control impact of all features.</p>

- **Side street rain gardens**

- Phil will send a letter to all property owners who could potentially have a rain garden in the terrace, and coordinate door-door outreach with Friends of Lake Wingra. Three business owners are interested so far. Hoping to end up with about ten.
- Engineering will meet with the owner of Klinke next week regarding a rain garden at the corner of Commonwealth. There was no contamination found at the site. The owner supports rain gardens and has them at several other Klinke locations. The only potential issue he identified is that the adjacent door is his main loading entrance. The City also needs to confirm whether he is willing to maintain the rain garden.
- The City is willing to cover the cost of installing rain gardens in any of the 20 possible side street sites along the corridor, but may still require some investment from property owners to ensure that they are serious about the commitment. The City's only recourse to rectify an un-maintained rain garden is for building inspection to send a letter requiring the property owner to fill it in.

- **Bed load Trap**

- Since our last meeting, the City has installed its first bed load trap on the west side. City staff are very supportive of these traps. Phil is proposing one at the intersection of Monroe and Glimore, using the existing inlet on the Arboretum side.
- A second possible location is at Knickerbocker and Monroe. Phil needs the final street survey to confirm the grade.
- Both locations would treat portions of the watershed that are currently untreated today.

- **Rock trench**

- Phil had not seen this as feasible, but he found a bug in the DNR model and it looks more feasible now.
- Constraints include existing street trees; the ability to tie into the existing storm sewer system without running too much pipe; and finding locations that will not conflict with other utilities.
- The cost to treat is about \$500-750 per pound of phosphorous, which is acceptable to the City.
- A potential barrier is that there is an area of archaeological interest in the target location of this device. This will be surveyed as part of the project to identify any areas that must be avoided. The City will receive a full inventory of native sites as part of this process.
- Phil wants to tie the rock trench into the existing storm system in order to protect the trench from winter salts, by having winter melt bypass the trench.
- Still need to figure out what the long-term maintenance will require.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pre- and post-construction impact <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Paul: Do all of these green infrastructure features together lead to significant volume control? Is that taken into consideration? This would save wear and tear on infrastructure. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Phil: We may see the benefit of volume control reduction on spring recharge – will look into this. The rock trenches and Wingra treatment device will lead to the most significant volume control. o Paul: Does this green infrastructure tie into the other placemaking and educational components of the street, or how do we help make sure that happens? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Phil: The Commonwealth realignment will support pedestrian safety, placemaking at Wingra Park, and green infrastructure at the corner of Commonwealth. Larger tree grates, a deeper growing medium, and undergrounding in the commercial districts will allow for larger canopy trees to go in at many locations. Harrison to Regent will be narrowed and will create more terrace space to support trees. o Paul: Has a rain garden been considered at Wingra Park? There was a workshop recently at which it was suggested that the path be split and a rain garden or decorative plantings to be located at the center. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Phil: The upcoming Crazylegs Plaza and Wingra entrance design process will lead to additional development of the design options for these two locations. o Peter: The Jensen Legacy Path dropped out of the running during the community survey last year, but it is something that we are still very interested in. Aaron Williams met with the Arboretum and Parks staff and they thought that the trail would be a good idea. The State Historical Society is also supportive. The design idea is to install simple brass plaques in concrete from Knickerbocker to Glenway. o Paul: Is there an opportunity to put a “Welcome to the Wingra Watershed” sign along the corridor to let people know the significance of this location? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Phil: A good location might be at Monroe and Van Buren. Also possibly at Crazylegs. 	
<p style="text-align: center;">Green Infrastructure Support Policy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This would be a brand new policy to subsidize treatment structures on private property in the Lake Wingra and Monona Bay watersheds. The maintenance agreement will need to be worked out, and the policy will need to be approved by the Common Council. - City would be responsible for designing the system, and property owner would bid it out. Streets like Monroe, Willy and Johnson often have limited options for green infrastructure within the ROW, so supporting treatments outside of the ROW is desirable. - After meeting with the businesses, the questions is, how do we expand the window of opportunity so that business have time to recover before making an investment. Asking businesses on Monroe to participate in something like this next year feels like it hits the wrong tone at a time when they will be perhaps the most financially strapped they have ever been. - Would like to see if we can extend the timeframe for participation to 3-5 years from the project date, but not sure this is possible legally. Have to discuss with City attorney. 	<p>Phil and Jim: Explore additional policy incentive and payment options.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ben: Could businesses get reduced assessment fees or tax credits? Could this somehow tie into the Sewage District's Yahara WINS program? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Phil: We will look into this. 	
Crazylegs Stormwater Showcase	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The City has issued an RFP for a landscape architect to design Crazylegs and the Wingra Park entrance. Integrating green infrastructure where possible is a significant component of the RFP. - The majority of the existing overhead lines will be cleared away, which will greatly reduce the visual clutter. Ultimately there will only be two poles at Crazylegs Triangle: one at the corner of Monroe and Regent, and one at the corner of Monroe and Breese Terrace. 	
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ben: Possible to tie into the minor water quality improvements that Parks is doing at the Forest Hill Cemetery? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Phil will talk with Kory. Phil will eventually be doing the stormwater plan for a portion of the cemetery to the west. - Ben: Need to address erosion control during construction at future meetings. 	