

RESILIENCE & SUSTAINABILITY HIGHLIGHTS JANUARY 2024

Pollinator Habitat at the Solar Park - On January 24, the City met with United Agrivoltaics, Inc., a company that puts sheep and honeybees on solar parks throughout the U.S. They have worked with Building Energy (predecessor to Novus Renewables) and have an ongoing relationship with Novus at the eight parks where they have worked to incorporate maintenance through sheep grazing and have added honeybees at one solar park. United Agrivoltaics provided a proposal for seed mix and design and sheep integration and grazing management. This proposal does not involve chemical burn-off of existing vegetation. Rather, it employs either a no till drill approach or a seed broadcast approach. This approach has produced excellent results where a 100 percent native plant outcome is not the goal. A lower growing, sheep nutritious mix can be developed inside the fence, and a taller growing, more diverse mix can be developed for areas outside the fence and beyond the landfill cap. MIT developed a site map identifying potential planting areas inside and outside the fence line, identifying slope (a factor in planting and maintenance). DPW will identify the extent of the landfill's cap. A project proposal is in development as a first step in developing an RFP and to share with Novus Renewable (solar park operator). Novus Renewables will decide on any funding once they review the project proposal.

Composting - In October 2023, the City DOT initiated a 6-month food scrap collection pilot in its break room and office area. DPW contracted with Annapolis Compost for weekly collections at \$60/month. Food scraps and paper are delivered to a local farm for composting. Composting may be brought to other City departments. DOT considers participation high among employees.

Electric Ferry Project - City department staff met on January 24 for final comments on a RFP for a ferry, to discuss landing sites, completing a feasibility study, and operational, storage, and maintenance considerations. The RFP will be final on January 26. A feasibility study will be completed by mid-February. The NEPA process was initiated by MTA and the City is coordinating with information about landing sites. McLaren Engineering was awarded a contract to design the Eastport landing site.

Green House Gas Emissions Updates – 2016 studies will be updated this year for emissions from City buildings and for community emissions. An RFP will be developed in the first quarter of 2024.

Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure –BGE is considering additional charging sites in the City, including the Maritime Museum's Back Creek campus parking lot (which is where parking will likely be designated for Carr's Beach users). City Dock presents opportunities for fast-chargers (focus on business and park patrons) and Level 2 chargers (focus on longer stay and downtown residents). Street chargers are an option, particularly for neighborhoods where off-street residential parking is limited.

Electric Vehicle Fleet Assessment and Recommendations – Climate Change Consulting LLC draft report under revision; final report is projected February 2024.

Stormwater and Restoration Projects

Termination of GreenVest Contract– the City exercised its right to terminate for convenience its contract with GreenVest effective December 31, 2023. The GreenVest contract was found to be no longer necessary due to added resources within the City such as the addition of the new Stormwater Program Manager position, and the additional Stormwater Engineer and Environmental Inspector positions, and

the partnership beginning in 2021 with the Chesapeake Bay Trust's Anne Arundel County Watershed Restoration Grant Program. Funding resources are coming to the City through its work with the Resilience Authority of Annapolis and Anne Arundel County. The City can more efficiently and cost effectively meet its MS4 requirements now without the full suite of identify, design, build, finance services contemplated by the GreenVest contract. GreenVest completed its deliverables on the identification and assessment of the City's outfalls and the BMP inventory.

Hawkins Cove – The site assessment is complete and work is underway on the 30% design plan and report. The goal is to have this first phase of the project wrapped up by January 2024 and to amend the agreement with Baylands Consultants & Designers, Inc. for final design and construction. Three alternative plans were presented at the Choice Neighborhood Initiative (CNI) meeting in Eastport in early November.

Anne Arundel County Watershed Restoration Grants/CBT - The CBT 2024 grant portal for projects on private property is open for applicants – homeowners, communities, faith-based organizations, schools, non-profit organizations. The City will fund up to \$300,000 in new projects/second stage of previously projects. Watershed planning, maintenance, and construction projects will be considered. The pre-application site visits deadline is March 1, 2024. The application deadline is March 11, 2024. Awards will be made in May 2024. A CBT/City webinar for potential applicants was held in November and may be found on the CBT website.

FY21 Grant Progress

- Cedar Ridge Homeowners Association Green Alley – construction was completed, the site was planted. The awardee is currently working to notarize the SW Maintenance Agreement with the City of Annapolis. This will be completed in January 2024.

FY22 Grant Progress

- Upland Truxtun Cove Stream-Community Watershed Assessment – the project was completed in July 2023. The final report was submitted on October 5, 2023 and the final payment was completed on October 19, 2023. This project will continue to design phase under the grant #22425.
- Harness Creek Overlook Wet Pond Retrofit & SPCS – Arundel Rivers requested to extend the project timeline to March 31, 2024 to allow for enough time to wrap up the permitting process. The awardee submitted their status report and requirements for the phase II payment on January 2, 2024. Once these documents are reviewed, the second phase payment will be completed in the next quarter.
- Tecumseh Condominium Storm Water Management Design – the awardee is currently working on their final report, and submitted some of the final deliverables on January 3, 2024. The Trust will work with the awardee to submit the rest of the final products and the final payment will be completed next quarter.
- Wardour Community-SW Mitigation to Improve WQ in Severn – SRA submitted the phase III contingencies, and the third payment was completed. On 11/28/23, the Wardour living shoreline permit was approved at the Port Wardens Hearing. SRA requested to extend the project timeline to the end of January, due to the findings

needing to be approved at the next meeting in January. SRA is currently working on the final report and deliverables that will be submitted next quarter.

FY23 Grant Progress

- Kingsport Crab Cove Restoration and Permitting – the contractor, Baylands, performed an assessment of the drainage area. The awardee is currently working on their second phase of contingencies, which includes the 65% design plans, a summary of the permitting process, a written plan for receiving implementation funding, and a status report. There have been some roadblocks due to a neighbor refusing to allow their property to be a part of the design where an outflow pipe will be rerouted to flow away from their property. The phase II contingencies will be submitted in the next quarter and the awardee will provide an updated design schedule and plan in January 2024.
- Downspout Disconnections, Submerged Gravel Wetland and Bioretention Pond Project - Fairwinds of Annapolis – the phase I contingencies were submitted and the first phase payment was released. The pre-construction meeting was held on December 11th. The contractor Loni Moyer and Megan Andreasen from the CBT attended a Fairwinds Board meeting on December 19 to discuss the project. Construction is scheduled to begin in early 2024.
- Georgetown East Stormwater Control – SRA submitted their phase II contingencies, which included the results of the soil infiltration analysis, mapped underground facilities, and status report. SRA is currently working with the contractor to prepare the 60% design plan and other project deliverables, as well developing a web page about the project for the community (<https://severnriver.org/restoration-projects/georgetown-east/>). The final report and products will be submitted next quarter and the final payment will be completed.
- Upland Truxtun Cove Subwatershed Design – SCC is currently working on the phase I contingencies, including an additional estimate from another organization for the design and permitting of the BMPs. SCC reached out to five contractors requesting estimates for design and permitting of the third project, and did not receive any estimates. SCC is still working to obtain additional estimates. A stream walk of the site is scheduled for January 2024 and the project sites and plans will be discussed. These contingencies will be submitted in the next quarter.

Carr's Beach Restoration and Master Plan – Rec & Parks is moving forward with a Master Plan for the new park. DNR and Resilience Authority have a concept plan for the shoreline restoration of the Park. Funding is at 100 percent – to be confirmed with Resilience Authority.

Severn River Watershed Restoration/Resilience Authority – An application was submitted through the Resilience Authority for funding through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for resilience building projects in the Severn River watershed, including (1) an expansion of Robert Eades park, doubling its size, and a realignment of Clay Street to improve traffic safety,(2) shoreline stabilization at Jonas and Katherine Green Park (AA County), and (3) the construction of a living shoreline at St. Mary's Church and school. NOAA has indicated that it will fund the first two projects, which includes Robert Eades Park. Funding should be available summer 2024.

City Dock – R&S continues to provide input on resilience and environmental protection features, including the use of permeable pavers and other natural stormwater controls and plant materials, including planted rather than potted trees. and location for E-ferry and associated infrastructure.

Leaf Blower Legislation – assisted with amendments and implementation strategy for staff report

Comprehensive Plan – On January 4, 2024, the City of Annapolis Planning Commission approved the draft “Annapolis Ahead 2040” Comprehensive Plan. An updated Draft Plan was presented to the Planning Commission in early December and on January 4 the Commission voted unanimously to approve the plan recommending it to the Mayor and City Council for adoption. The next step is for the Annapolis City Council to take up the Plan for adoption.

Sustainable Annapolis – This program aimed at businesses using green practices has been dormant for many years. Staff are updating the program with plans to promote it in 2024.

Bird City 2024 Event (required annually for Bird City certification) – a photography contest will kick off in January; photos will be displayed in City Hall March and April 2024. Divisions for elementary school age, middle and high school age, and adult (over 18). Local bird photographer, Jack Turner and/or Arts in Public Places may serve as judge(s). Retail store, Wild Birds Unlimited agreed to donate prizes for the contest giveaways.

Public Education Campaigns – campaigns improve the City environment, educate the public, and earn points towards the City’s Bird City, Sustainable Maryland, Tree City, and Wildlife Areas certifications. 2023 campaigns: Plastic Free Annapolis (July), Bee-Friendly Annapolis (pollinators) (August) 2024 planned: Pet Waste, Pollinator Habitat