

RESILIENCE & SUSTAINABILITY CURRENT PROJECTS (MAY 2023)

PROJECT	DESCRIPTION
WATER QUALITY	
Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit Impervious	<p>Clean Water Act (CWA) National Pollutant (NPDES) permit for Phase II municipalities. Governs storm water conveyance systems. Current permit requires treatment of 20% of the City's 2002 baseline impervious area. Pollutant reductions generate credits towards Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) goals. DPW has the lead working with GreenVest to update the Best Management Practices (BMP) database, scope, design, and implement projects, and submit annual MS4 permits to MDE.</p> <p>The Environmental Programs Coordinator and DCM are part of the team to evaluate and make recommendations on projects and are part of the MS4 compliance team. DPW is the lead on MS4 work and reporting.</p>

Projects

Hawkins Cove restoration

\$130,000 grant from the Chesapeake Bay Trust (CBT) to restore Hawkins Cove per public input. \$500,000 NFWF grant in 2022 for construction and expansion to Truxtun Park trails. R&S led the development of the concept, community outreach, drafted grant application, and assist with moving the project to completion. DPW is the project lead for design and implementation.

Non-profit and HOA led waterfront improvement projects

City funded Chesapeake Bay Trust grant projects. R&S advises on proposals and facilitates projects through permitting and construction processes.

No Discharge Zone (NDZ)

Prohibits the discharge from vessels of treated marine sewage into waters of Anne Arundel County. Application was a joint effort by the City, AA County, DNR, and the Severn River Association.

Stormwater Project Workflow and Requirements document	R&S had lead working with staff to revise document to include more details and provisions that will better inform decisions to apply for and undertake projects and the City's requirements. DPW Director incorporated feedback from Waterways Cabinet stakeholders meeting in 7/21 and presented revised document to stakeholders 10/21.
Waterways Cabinet	Meets quarterly to share ideas and concerns with Mayor and City staff.
TREE CANOPY AND PROTECTIONS	
Replant Annapolis	Partnership between the City and Watershed Stewards Academy (WSA) to train residents ("Tree Troopers") to find tree planting sites and plant and maintain trees in their communities. WSA performs recruitment, training, and reviews tree planting proposals.
Tree Canopy Goal	City's goal is a 50% tree canopy by 2036.
Save Our Trees	Community group with goal to save trees through removing English Ivy. DCM assisted group to organize, create waivers, and establish process to work on City property and right of ways.
AIR QUALITY AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY	

"Greening" the City Fleet	Electrify the City fleet to reduce greenhouse
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gas emissions and to save money through reduced maintenance, parts, and fuel. Inspection and general use vehicles, buses, trolleys, GEM vehicles, light duty trucks, police vehicles, and boats.

Cigarette Butt Plastic Litter Public

"No Butts in the Bay!" public education campaign regarding the negative environmental impacts of cigarette litter and providing TerraCycle receptacles to gather butts and return for recycling of plastic content. Funded by \$15,000 grant from DNR.

Education Campaign

Expanding 2019 Single Use Plastic Campaign to City Government

"Plastic Free Annapolis" was aimed at reducing single use plastic among businesses, primarily restaurants, and residents. Alternate materials were provided and the Mayor and others signed the plastic-free pledge to reduce the use of single use plastic. The campaign was funded by a DNR grant and developed and implemented by Annapolis Green during Aug/Sept. 2019. Annapolis Green continued the campaign as one of the organization's regular programs.

Composting

Encourage composting of food and yard waste and provide means for residents to compost. Collaborate with Anne Arundel County to encourage their participation with the City to supply adequate feedstock to a City run composting facility.

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Zero Waste Policy for City Buildings and Events	The zero waste policy will outline the steps necessary to set up a City event so that the waste stream is diminished. Zero waste events reduce consumption, minimize waste, maximize recycling and composting, and ensure that products are made to be reused, repaired, or recycled back into nature or, the marketplace.
LAND CONSERVATION and	
Green Overlay to Comprehensive Plan Update	R&S assisted DPZ to integrate a greenway and environmentally, water protections, and environmentally sensitive areas into the 2040 comprehensive planning process.
Improved Hiking/Biking Trails in Truxton Park	Improve severely degraded trails in Truxton Park which will reduce erosion to Spa Creek and enhance user experiences.

Chesapeake Bay National Recreation Area	Creation of a Chesapeake Bay National Recreation Area with Annapolis as the anchor area.
RESILIENCE PLANNING/PROJECTS	
Resilience Plan	Create a Resilience Plan that incorporates other planning documents and current City projects to identify current challenges, opportunities, goals, and plans to achieve goals.

Resilience Authority for Annapolis and Anne Arundel County

Quasi-governmental entity to identify and finance resilience infrastructure projects in the City and the County. Projects will protect the City and County from the impacts of climate change.

Climate Change Litigation	Lawsuit filed to recover damages from oil and gas industry for the climate change impacts. Sher Edling representing Annapolis on a contingency basis.
Pollinator Habitat	Provide pollinator habitat at Annapolis solar park to increase pollinator populations.
Integrated Pest Management Policy (IPM)	The IPM specifies pesticide use and application by the City. New information needs to be incorporated in the IPM and inform the IPM policy practices.
Community Rating System (CRS) of National Flood Insurance Program	Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) will determine the City's rating which will provide discounts on flood insurance for property owners.

Certifications

Tree City, Bee City, Bird City, Sustainable
Maryland,



STATUS

DPW is preparing responses to MDE comments in response to the City's 2022 report. The City's MS4 permit was extended to 2025. The October 2023 report must show how the City will meet its restoration goals by 2030. Greenvest is performing triennial review of BMPs, GIS mapping of stormwater infrastructure, and updates to GIS BMP database, developing Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plans (SWPPPs) for City facilities and will train employees around SWPPPs, and is researching funding for stormwater projects.

Baylands Consultants & Designers, Inc (Hanover, MD) for Phase I (site assessment, engineering analyses, and design of a living shoreline and community park).

The City provided \$300,000 to CBT grant program for third year. Projects submitted: Georgetown East Condos - microbiotention practices, Kingsport - Crab Cove shoreline stabilization, Spa Creek Conservancy upland Truxtun Cove subwatershed improvements, Fairwinds Condo Assoc. - stormwater controls, Arundel Rivers Federation – Harness Creek Pond Retrofit. Projects that are chosen will be announced in May.

The NDZ went into effect July 2022. The Harbormaster provides brochures produced by DNR. City and County funds (\$12,000) remain available to the Severn River Association for public education.

DPW finalized the stormwater workflow in 2022 website and it is used with restoration and stormwater control projects.

The Waterways Cabinet will meet May 18. Restoration project opportunities and obstacles will be addressed.

Fall 2022: 104 trees planted

Wardour, Chesapeake Children's Museum); 96 residents volunteered; 24 residents trained as "Tree Troopers". \$22,100 of \$30,000 spent on program. No Spring 2023 planting since funding is uncertain. FY24 Budget: ?

160 trees were planted in 2022 (including Replant Annapolis). City tree planting funds are insufficient to meet goal. DPZ recommending adjusting goal to a more realistic goal of 45% tree canopy by 2040. The City Arborist requested FY24 funds for an updated canopy assessment. The last assessment was performed in 2019 and covered data gathered for the period 2011 -2017. Tree canopy was at 42% but areas of the City have lost trees since that assessment without net gains. Assessments should occur every 5 years.

Group has conducted 4 English Ivy removals event (Truxtun Park and Jones Cove) during which 1400 trees were addressed.

Climate Change Consulting, LLC retained to

Assist City with EV plan, grants, and purchasing of EVs and installation of charging infrastructure. Identifying replacement vehicles in short and long terms, sources of funding to purchase EVs, analyzing needs of departments, and exploring approaches in other jurisdictions. In December 2022, two GEM golf carts were acquired with \$100k from the Annapolis

Mobility Plan funds. Two electric buses were ordered in 2022 (18-24 months for delivery) using federal, state, County, and City funds. Each bus \$755,523.

In February 2023, the City was awarded an FTA Electric Ferry Pilot Program grant for purchase of two electric ferries and associated infrastructure, including dock improvements (\$3.5M) Vessel options are being explored. An Eastport docking location assessment is being planned.

2 electric Chevy Bolts were added to the City fleet in 2023; one is used by DOT for change out of bus drivers, the other is used by DPW inspectors. 7

EV charging stations were installed in Hillman Garage - 4 fast chargers and 3 L-2's.

The new Public Works facility maintenance building is wired to support EV charging and an EV charging unit to support two vehicles is located in front of the building and is accessible to the public. DOT, DPW, the

Harbormaster and DCM are moving forward in

Annapolis Green served as the contractor to develop and implement the campaign. They serviced the receptacles and developed promotional and educational materials, educated residents and visitors and provided portable ashtrays, provided information to businesses. Signs promoting the campaign were rotated throughout the City. 7 receptacles were employed and litter in these areas were reduced. 5 receptacles were purchased with grant funds that became City property and may be rotated throughout the City. DPW will empty the receptacles ("butt bins"). Annapolis Green added additional locations in 2022.

A draft "Plastic Free Annapolis" policy has been created to apply to all City buildings and events held by the City. Plans to educate and implement "Plastic Free Annapolis" will commence during 2023 and will include public education.

The City made permanent the Truxtun Park food scrap drop off site. The City contracts with Annapolis Compost for pick up and composting. In 2022, total food scraps collected from the drop off site and the pilot curbside program in Hunt Meadows combined was 50,422 pounds (25.21 tons).

DPW is no longer pursuing a joint County/City food scrap and yard waste processing facility since the County is not interested.

R&S drafted a zero waste policy for City buildings and City events. The Black History event in February 2023 was completely zero waste using all recyclable and compostable materials.

2040 Annapolis Ahead incorporates environmentally sensitive areas and environmental quality into almost all aspects of the plan. The DCM, Environmental Commission and Conservancy Board provided input on the plan.

Explored trails in March 2020 with MidAtlantic Off Road Enthusiast (MORE) to determine next steps. City Forester will examine trees that may be dying and require removal for trail safety.

R&S continues to work with Mayor's office and NPS on plan.

Planning documents that will be completed or nearly completed in April will serve as the basis for a draft Resilience Plan (including MIRR, 2040 Annapolis Ahead,

Hazard Mitigation Plan, Public Water Access Plan, Bikeways Plans, Mobility Plan, CIP, Electric Vehicles Strategy) The Environmental Commission will assist with a draft of the Resilience Plan.

The City requested \$10M for City Dock. The Director will hold quarterly meetings of the Advisory Committee (City and County staff) beginning in June 2023. The Director, DNR and the City are working on concept resilience and park concepts for Carr's Beach to be used for funding purposes. Carr's Beach plans may be partnered with plans to improve Jonas Greene Park in AA County, which will expedite planning and design (July 2023). Waterway Improvement Funds (WIP) can be applied for to provide a pier/landing site at Carr's Beach if recreational boating is included along with a ferry stop. The City is part of a multi-jurisdictional effort led by the Baltimore Meropolitan Council (speaheaded by the Resilience Auhority) to obtain \$1M in reginoal planning funds under EPA's Climate Change Pollution Reduction grant program. If successful, the region (Baltimore- Towson- Columbia (with AA Co. and Annapolis tacked on)) will apply for a piece of the \$4.5B implementation funding.

Movement is expected towards consideration of the merits of the lawsuit since cases have been remanded to the more favorable state courts by the First, Third, Fourth, Ninth, and Tenth Circuit Courts of Appeal. The order staying remand of the City's case is subject to the Solicitor General's views on the certiorari petition to SCOTUS in the *Boulder County, CO* climate case. The Solicitor General's brief was submitted on April 16 and recommends against granting cert. A decision from SCOTUS may issue as early as late April.

In April, R&S and Mayor's staff continued conversations with the solar park operators (Novus Renewables) regarding the scope and funding for the project. Novus Renewables has agreed to plant test site pollinator gardens so that they can see if bees will be an issue to those who work onsite. Novus Renewables is willing to working on this project, but have not yet committed to the scope of funding for the project. Another call will take place during the Month of May. A budget request for this project was submitted for FY24 for the amount of \$50,000. If approved, the test sites for the pollinator gardens can move forward starting in the fall 2023 because that will be a good time seasonally to begin the test. We will be requesting that Novus Renewables partner with us for 50% of the cost. Currently, Novus is exploring planting a 1/3 acre portion of the solar park with a test pollinator garden utilizing a mow/aerate/seed approach.

R&S is drafting a revised IPM policy. Maryland Pesticide Network provided information and proposed revisions to IPM policy.

A revision to the City's Floodplain Management code required by FEMA was approved. The City's FEMA ISO CRS

Specialist will be able to close out our file. When she closes out the file it will be sent for a secondary review. This takes up to 30 days. The file is then returned back to our ISO Specialist to see if she needs to make any updates. After the City's CRS file is reviewed and approved internally the ISO specialist will send the city what is called a preliminary results letter outlining the City's class rating and points. It will also break down each activity awarded credit. The file then is scanned to FEMA where it takes 6 months to a year to process. FEMA process files twice a year for the effective dates. The two effective dates are in October and April. Unfortunately, the October 2023 deadline has passed because files would have needed to be scanned by January 27th. The Annapolis community's effective date will be April 2024. The estimated savings on flood insurance for City residents is 15% once the City is rated following review of its application.

The City has received a preliminary results letter from FEMA congratulating the City of Annapolis on obtaining level 7 classification of the CRS program. This is now subject to acceptance by DHS/FEMA as outlined above.

A "Bee-Friendly Annapolis" pollinator bee public education campaign is being planned for Summer 2023. Solar park pollinator habitat plans will count towards Bee City, Bird City, and Sustainable MD certifications.