

**City of Bowie
Summary of Testimony for the Public Hearing on the
Environmental Infrastructure Action Strategy Plan**

**SUMMARY OF COMMENTS RECEIVED ON THE
BOWIE ENVIRONMENTAL INFRASTRUCTURE ACTION STRATEGY PLAN**

A. Verbal Comments on August 1st Informational Meeting before City Council

Speaker #	Name/Representation	Comments/Concerns
1	Gary Allen, resident	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy, its use, conservation and alternative sources have not been addressed in the plan. <p><i>Staff Comment: We expect there to be future updates to the plan that will address these issues.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a need for continuing citizen input into the implementation of the plan. <p><i>Staff Comment: The City Council is considering the formation of an environmental advisory committee.</i></p>
2	Maureen Fine, resident	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invasives negatively affect the flora, fauna, and stream hydrology. They should be addressed in the plan. <p><i>Staff Comment: The Department of Community Services will remove invasives on city-owned sites when the location of invasives has been identified.</i></p>

B. Written Comments received as of August 14, 2007

Communication #	Date Received	Name/Representation	Comments/Concerns
1	7/26/07	Maria E. Arnold, resident	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The City should increase the proposed number of backyard habitats in Bowie from 100 since there are already 43 certified habitats in Bowie according to the National Wildlife Federation. <p><i>Staff Comment: Staff concurs and will revise EI Plan recommendation from 100 to 150.</i></p>

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The City of Bowie should become a certified habitat. <i>Staff Comment: Staff will investigate this designation in conjunction with developing the program plan and procedures in the Action Plan this year.</i> • There should be tours of the existing 43 certified habitats in Bowie. <i>Staff Comment: When promotional material is developed for backyard habitats, we will consider tours as part of our outreach.</i> • City Hall should serve as a demonstration site for both rain barrels and cisterns, which should be added to the action plan. <i>Staff Comment: We will continue to examine this potential.</i> • The City should sell or give away bare root seedlings each year to encourage expanding the City's tree canopy. <i>Staff Comment: We will examine this as an option during the implementation of the corresponding Action Plan.</i> • The City should reconsider its 'no-mow' policy because invasive plants tend to thrive in these conditions while natives are eaten by deer. 'No-mow' areas need to be actively managed to control invasives. <i>Staff Comment: Guidelines will be developed along with the program plan and procedures in the Action Plan.</i> • The City should adopt an invasive plant removal program. There are two dozen or so 'weed warrior' programs in the region that the City could emulate. <i>Staff Comment: Same response as above.</i> • (Included pictures of invasives in White Marsh Park.) <i>Staff Comment: Same response as above.</i>
2	8/14/07	Carrie Decker, MDNR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need more information in the plan regarding the responsibilities that the Stream Teams will be charged with such as planting rain gardens. <i>Staff Comment: Stream Team duties will developed during the</i>

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			<p><i>program plan and procedures as stated in the Action Plan.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who will train and maintain the Stream teams or will they become self-sustainable? <p><i>Staff Comment: City will initially coordinate training of volunteers. Stream Teams may eventually become self-sustaining.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The goal for the number of rain barrels should be higher than 150 in 5 years. <p><i>Staff Comment: This was a realistic estimate created by the Staff Consultant and the Steering Committee.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arlington Echo School could do a workshop and provide the rain barrel at a reasonable rate. <p><i>Staff Comment: We will consider this during implementation of the Action Plan.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please reword Action Plan 7 to say 'implement' 3 retrofit projects by 2012 instead of 'encourage' since Environmental Sensitive Design (LID) will be required starting in 2009. <p><i>Staff Comment: The recommended change will be made.</i></p>
3	8/14/07	Mike Galvin, MDNR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommend increasing tree canopy coverage to 46% as recommended by Goetz et al. <p><i>Staff Comment: This recommendation will be considered during development of the Urban Forest Management Plan.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommend changing the goal to be 'Attain water quality rating of fair or better ...' Rather than just saying 'Improve water quality'. <p><i>Staff Comment: The draft goal will be retained as written since we have not yet determined how to define "fair" at this time.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The plan does not address how will tree canopy coverage be increased on private property. <p><i>Staff Comment: This subject will be addressed during the development of the Urban Forest Management Plan.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We would like to work with the City to identify "sending" and

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			<p>“receiving” areas for forest mitigation as we are doing in Frederick. <i>Staff Comment: Duly noted.</i></p>
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A. Verbal Comments on September 4th Public Hearing before City Council

Speaker #	Name/Representation	Comments/Concerns
1	Mary Ellen Winlund, resident	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There should be a specific education plan developed for the children in Bowie. <p><i>Staff Comment: We will consider this during implementation of the education and outreach component of the Action Plan.</i></p>