




City of Bowie

2614 Kenhill Drive
Bowie, Maryland 20715

MEMORANDUM

TO: City Council

FROM: David J. Deutsch,  City Manager

SUBJECT: Environmental Infrastructure Action Strategy Plan
Public Hearing

DATE: August 27, 2007

Staff will present the draft Environmental Infrastructure (EI) Action Strategy Plan to Council during Monday night's public hearing. This plan was previously presented to Council on August 3, 2007, at which time public notices were sent to 273 stakeholders. The public hearing is a grant requirement of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. Over 273 notices for this public hearing were mailed on August 15th and a legal notice regarding the hearing appeared in the Gazette/Bowie Star on August 16, 2007.

The Plan was created with input from a Steering Committee comprised of six (6) City residents, City staff members and the grant-funded consultant, Environmental Resources Management (ERM), Inc. of Annapolis. Attached are the public comments regarding the plan.

At Council's directive, staff will prepare a draft City Council approval Resolution for the September 18, 2007 meeting.

Action Required: Conduct public hearing. Direct staff to make any necessary revisions and draft City Council approval Resolution.

Attachments

**SUMMARY OF COMMENTS RECEIVED ON THE
BOWIE ENVIRONMENTAL INFRASTRUCTURE ACTION STRATEGY PLAN
As of August 27, 2007**

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. <i>Staff Comment: We expect there to be future updates to the plan that will address these issues.</i> • There is a need for continuing citizen input into the implementation of the plan. <i>Staff Comment: The City Council is considering the formation of an environmental advisory committee.</i>
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. <i>Staff Comment: The Department of Community Services will remove invasives on city-owned sites when the location of invasives has been identified.</i>

B. Written Comments received as of August 6, 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

			<p>habitats in Bowie according to the National Wildlife Federation. <i>Staff Comment: Staff concurs and will revise EI Plan recommendation from 100 to 150.</i></p> <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

			<p>rain gardens.</p> <p><i>Staff Comment: Stream Team duties will developed during the 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 "receiving" areas for forest mitigation as we are doing in Frederick. <p><i>Staff Comment: Duly noted.</i></p>
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