

October 9, 2019 Gulf Branch Advisory Group Meeting

In Attendance: Colt Gregory, Duke Banks, Kit Norland, Marx Sterne, Tom Vanden Brook, Nereide Ellis, Chris Carpenter, Doug Dickman, Teresa Rafi

Following up by phone call afterwards: Michael Mesmer, Alan Larsen, Stephanie Martin

What do you like about the design? Suggestions & concerns? Additional information needed?

Themes:

Can you use smaller size equipment to minimize tree loss?

- *We can look at comparisons and case studies of places referenced that have used smaller size equipment and bring back information about feasibility, applicability, and implications this approach would have for the design and goals of the project.*

Make sure to take watershed buildout and climate change into account.

- *With climate change, we expect more frequent intense 100-year (or greater) storms. With ongoing building, there will be increases in impervious levels in Gulf Branch and throughout Arlington. We are taking these into account as we are defining the practices for each area and overall design.*

Incorporate maintenance funds.

- *The Department of Environmental Services provides funding for 5 years of maintenance and monitoring for all stream projects post-construction. This includes planting and invasive treatment. There is also an option in the capital budget for funding emergency stream work and larger-scale maintenance and fixes.*

Don't lose sight of the importance of erosion from tributaries downstream of Military Road.

- *When considering the final scope of the project, we will weigh all considerations, including erosion in tributaries.*

Access to and stabilization of trails.

- *We will look to see if through project phasing, we can keep sections of the trail open during construction. Trails will be included in final design.*

Minimize disruption to community by keeping construction shorter, concentrating work in winter (off-months), especially in Broyhill Forest Park

- *We will minimize disruption to the extent possible. Permitting and procurement (the final stages before going to construction) can be unpredictable, which can make timing the process challenging, but again, we will do what we can to take the community's interest into account here.*

Specific comments, as written by advisory group members:

- Please choose equipment carefully to avoid damage (i.e. to trees)
- Please try to frame this project in a broader context, i.e. please try to learn trends in stormwater at the source of flow into the stream. Please design with climate change front and center. Please consider rain interception data in assessing tree values.
- How do we prevent a band-aid outcome? If we budget more for a longer construction period but prevent wasting money to fix problems again soon, can we consider it? Please ensure maintenance funds are incorporated. Thank you.
- Do not want to lose emphasis on the tributary erosion/runoff problems/corrections.
- Access to the trails and stream during construction would be greatly appreciated, if possible. Stabilization of the trails is a high priority for hikers and dog walkers. Thanks.
- Account moving forward – not clear on effect of increases in impervious surface area combined with more frequent and severe storms. Is the design protective enough?
- Consider use of smaller equipment to minimize effect of soil compaction and tree loss but realize some trees will be lost.
- Design team communicates well. Thanks to Ken & Jen for participation and insight.
- Sketches of proposed design solutions will be good to see.
- Minimize tree impact by considering smaller equipment
- Will the community support this project in the future in the budget?
- Protect as many trees as possible.
- Good community interest and feedback being heard.
- Like about design: protect trails
- Design likes: Targeted but not piecemeal (overall theme makes sense), detailed consideration of tree health
- Concerns: need to consider how to minimize staging time and concentrate disruption during periods of less use (e.g. winter)