



Prince George's County Newsletter September 2017

Stormwater Savvy Supports Green Infrastructure Planning throughout Prince George's County

Projects supported by Prince George's Stormwater Stewardship Grant Program

Our Mission

The mission of the Chesapeake Bay Trust is to promote public awareness and participation in the restoration and protection of the water quality and aquatic and land resources of the Chesapeake Bay region and other aquatic and land resources of the State. The Trust will engage residents of the region in programs that lead to actions that measurably improve local communities and increase resource stewardship.

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PROJECT HIGHLIGHT: CITY OF HYATTSVILLE'S DEITZ PARK

As we build green infrastructure throughout Prince George's County, our landscapes will need to integrate the newest green techniques into community spaces where citizens work and play. The Neighborhood Design Center (NDC) places citizen priorities at the heart of the design process with the goal of supporting vibrant, healthy, and inclusive citizen-led projects. The NDC's Stormwater Savvy (Savvy) program applies a collaborative approach to integrate green infrastructure with existing landscapes and community spaces. This program works with citizens to assess the spaces and their potential for future improvements that will also address water quality. The overarching goal is to build positive emotional connections between people and the environment.

The Stormwater Savvy program is funded by the Prince George's Stormwater Stewardship Grant Program. The City of Hyattsville's Deitz Park represents a great example of the Savvy program. Deitz Park is an inner-block neighborhood park that was an unused and forgotten community space. In addition, the park receives a substantial amount of stormwater runoff. In fact, the entrance frequently is flooded with standing water. The City's Department of Public Works approached NDC in 2015 to guide the community through

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planning a future park that controlled stormwater and that the citizens would use and value.



Images: Gathering ideas from the citizens that use Dietz Park for the conceptual plan.

STEP 1: INFORMATION GATHERING

The first step in this process is to get input from the people that live and work near the site. To do this, NDC collected vital information during a Saturday morning workshop at the park and an on-site survey/comment box. Both methods of information gathering told NDC what the community valued about the space and what they envisioned for the future. NDC used this information to make recommendations and ask questions for the citizens at the follow up meeting.

STEP 2: DESIGN

The community discussion and feedback during the information gathering stage led to the final design.

The final Savvy design realigned the pathway and elevated it over the primary drainage area to improve the entrance and to allow space for green infrastructure. Users wanted the park to keep the natural character and allow for family activities. NDC took that feedback and made the entrance visible and inviting in the final concept design. In addition, parents requested a bathroom to spend more time at the park with their children. Therefore, a composting bathroom was included as an option for future implementation. Finally, the park's natural character is due to the existing tree canopy. Therefore, the plan needed to support existing tree health and promote planting new trees.

5. Final Master Plan

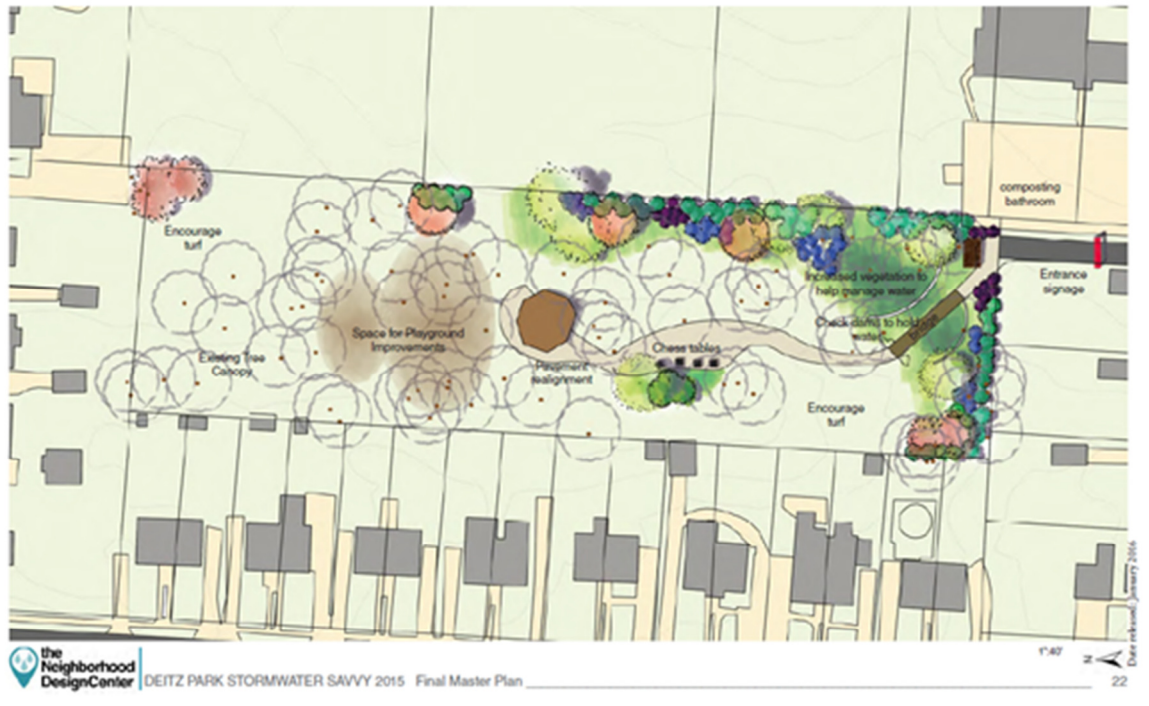


Image: Deitz Park Master Plan—Tree planting, enhanced entrance, and citizen amenities were incorporated into the final plan.

STEP 3: IMPLEMENTATION

The next step for the Deitz Park plan is implementation, which is in the early stages. Partners at the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay are assisting the Deitz Park team to pursue implementation based on the Savvy plans.

ABOUT STORMWATER SAVVY

Over the past two and a half years, NDC has received Prince George's County Stormwater Stewardship grant funds, in partnership with the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay in 2017, to provide the Stormwater Savvy design and engagement program. In addition to Deitz Park, the Stormwater Savvy program has supported schools, faith-based organizations, non-profits, such as the People for Change Coalition and Educare, Inc., as well as homeowner associations and local green teams. The following partners have received conceptual plans from the Stormwater Savvy program:

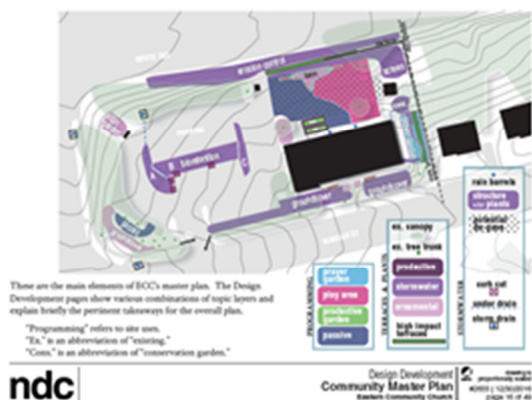
- Kenmoor Middle School (Hyattsville);
- Eleanor Roosevelt High School (Greenbelt);
- Gwynn Park High School (Brandywine);
- Southern Friendship Missionary Baptist Church (Temple Hills);
- Dwight D. Eisenhower Middle School (Laurel);
- Eastern Community Church (Hyattsville);
- green team in Riverdale to beautify Beale Circle (Riverdale Park); and
- Hamptons (Brandywine), Northern Estates (Glenn Dale), and Summer Five (Lanham)

Homeowners Associations.

The final product includes a master plan for the partner documenting the process and recommendations for future beautification and stormwater projects. Snapshots from the Savvy plans from Eastern Community Church Community and Dwight D. Eisenhower Middle School are provided here to showcase the final products.



(a)



(b)

Images: Eastern Community Church Community Master Plan: (a) visioning process documented in the plan; (b) a conceptual plan for future stormwater management.

Today each Savvy partner is in different stages of implementing their plan and the outcomes are exciting. We learned that students were excited by designing and solving water issues at their school. In fact, a few students reported that they want to pursue environmentally-related careers. Teachers are working together using the plan to guide student school-ground improvement projects. The residential and faith-based communities all reported positive experiences in the program and a number of them have formed green teams to keep up the environmental efforts. In addition to assisting the Dietz Park team, Partners at the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay are assisting Summer Five HOA and EduCare to pursue implementation based on these Savvy plans. Northern Estates HOA received Redevelopment Authority Capital Improvement Funds to implement a community beautification project that was included in their Stormwater Savvy plan.

Student Design Workshop

Agenda:

1. Introduction of NDC & other entities (3 min)
2. Savvy Intro Game: Rose-Thorn-Bud (20 min)
goal: Understand weaknesses, strengths, and opportunities in and to the campus
- A. Thorns: Where/What are places or things on campus that you don't like?
- B. Buds: Where/What are opportunities for improvement? (features or spots that have more potential than previously used) Do you already use this space, but wish it was better?
- C. Rose: Where are your most favorite places & why? What do you already use this space for?
- D. Where do you see water on your campus? (blue)
3. Introduction to stormwater management (15 min)
goal: why it matters and what it is
4. Findings of DDCMS site analysis (10 min)
goal: what site characteristics are influential on campus
Landuse, Topography, Soil Drainage Class, Regional Context
5. Savvy Trivia (10 min)
Time Check: At about 2:30.



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Workshop Overview & Outcomes
Stormwater Savvy
Dwight D. Eisenhower Middle School

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(a)

Combined Student Design Suggestions



After the students brainstormed and set goals, they then broke into groups and started sketching their own ideas about what changes should happen and where. We compiled all these drawings and combined their suggestions into one plan. These suggestions formed the basis for our concept.

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(b)

Images: Dwight D. Eisenhower Middle School Landscape and Stormwater Master Plan: (a) student design input was documented in the plan; (b) combined student design suggestions for trees, a green roof, and school ground enhancements.

SUMMARY AND CONTACT INFORMATION

The Stormwater Savvy program engages citizens to plan for and start to implement green infrastructure in Prince George's County!

Contact Rachel McNamara, Program Manager at the Neighborhood Design Center for information about the Stormwater Savvy program at rmcnamara@ndc-md.org and (301) 779-6010 xt 101.

Contact Sadie Drescher, Director of Restoration Programs at the Chesapeake Bay Trust at sdrescher@cbtrust.org and 410-974-2941 xt 105, for information about the Prince George's Stormwater Stewardship Grant Program.



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60 West Street, Suite 405, Annapolis, MD 21401