

WIGHTMAN PARK GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE



STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT MEETING

Wightman School Community Building, 5604 Solway Street
April 23, 2018

Purpose:

The Wightman Park community meeting was organized to bring together and engage stakeholders and community residents about the improvement projects for Wightman Park. Preliminary design concepts focused on green street infrastructure opportunities for future connections to the park's green infrastructure. The meeting encouraged feedback from residents and stakeholder to collect concerns and issues.

Summary:

The design team and stakeholders presented the Wightman Park Green Street design concepts via an oral presentation and visual boards. Overall, reactions to the plan were positive, with stakeholders expressing support for the concepts as presented. Individual concerns were captured through discussions with the design team, with comments recorded on boards and comment sheets. A copy of the attendance sheet and community comments and concerns for each station are below.

Community Comments and Concerns:

Station No 1.

Stormwater issue locations

Comments: Numbers correspond with the numbers on the Station 1 map.

1. Basement backs up in storms
2. Basement Backup
3. Insufficient Sewer?
4. Basement floods
5. Increasing frequency of sewer backups into basement
6. Basement garage backups
7. Arco way drains to parking lot [behind the buildings that face the corner of Negley and Solway].
8. Basement sewer backup fixed with backflow preventer

9. [New] concrete parking lot [and impervious lot] drains down Beck Way to Arco Way, eroding road. [also, introduces more water to the parking lot referenced in #7]
10. Backups only in super-extreme rain.
11. Used to flood frequently, now there is not a combined sewer in the area [construction a few years ago of separated sanitary and stormwater sewer, according to this homeowner].
12. 2017 sewer backup from toilet, (3" all over basement) excess water from gutters runs into the sidewalk/street [this person as well said all her downspouts were disconnected, and her gutters rebuilt. She called herself the "downspout disconnect police" for her block, always trying to encourage neighbors to disconnect. She also stated that the water comes FAST down the Bambridge alley, she wanted us to put stormwater bumpouts at the corner of the alley and Negley to collect that water too.]

DESIGN TEAM DISCUSSIONS WITH COMMUNITY MEMBERS

A few people complained about water on the street and in their basements but didn't really connect the problem of basement water and the overloaded combined sewer system. For example, they wanted to get the water off the street. One person expressed that they didn't think the sewer was working because water was collecting on the street. This same person also had backup issues in his basement. Although not recorded as a problem on the comment sheets, a few people spoke of how much and how fast the water comes down Bambridge, the alley between Wilkens and Solway. In general, once they got the idea of controlling the water on the street and getting it out of the sewer, people were very supportive of the project.

Station No. 2.

Green Streets Project Vision and Design Concepts

No comments except for parking complaint expressed also at station 5.

Station No. 3

Solway Promenade and Park Wetland and Water Garden

1. Provide seating around the baseball area
2. I oppose the cascading steps. They are a middle school and teenage magnet. Stormwater picks up pesticides, fertilizers, salts, etc and it is unhealthy. I suggest the water running under the grate, underground and into the water areas.
3. Concern about maintaining planting areas in the park and street
4. Concerned about losing parking spaces on Colma.
5. Like the stepping stones as long as the water is safe.
6. Prefers wooden benches

At this station, we talked to three people about the concern of planting areas not being maintained. The residents expressed concerns about weeds taking over and looking bad. They wanted to know the long-term maintenance plans. Two parents were worried about the water garden and wetland being designed as too inviting for kids to play in, from the stepping stones and low toe-guard on boardwalk. Overall, the design was well-received, and stakeholders seemed open-minded about potential challenges to the maintenance.

Station No. 4

Planting and Stormwater

1. Talk to the city about local job creation
2. Prefers low maintenance plants
3. Prefers perennials
4. Worried we have to depend on volunteers
5. Thinks we should contact PPC, PWSA and environmental science classes @Chatham, Pitt, High Schools.
6. Alleyways can use pervious surface
7. Salt resistant is a must
8. Doesn't want stones because thinks soil will rise up to cover stones

Station No. 5

1. Complains about illegal parking spots being taken away. Wants more parking for Carriage House. Expressed same complaint at St. 2.
2. Bambridge and Negley gets lots of water, back alleys create a collection system. Must do something at Bambridge
3. Keep the sinkhole in the middle of the street on Solway since it functions as a speed bump
4. Basement flooding extends to school
5. Requests we mark parking spots along Solway
6. Bump out further to slow down traffic along Solway

Residents were very uncomfortable with the traffic flow between Solway/Murray and Solway/Wightman. They requested multiple speedbumps and raised crosswalks at the school. Residents want parking spots to be outlined/delineated on the street to streamline parking. Residents supported controlling illegal parking despite the fact that the design reduced the overall number of parking spots. They want the reserved spots across from the school to become available for parking.

The majority of the feedback from the residents mentioned they would be supportive of disconnecting their downspouts to a green infrastructure connection lateral. Most of the residents along Solway are directly connected to the combined sewer.

Photos:

