

What is the Future of the SWIP?



Public Comment Period

A public comment period will be open from October 18 - November 1, 2017 for citizens to comment on the Stormwater Improvement Plan. Comments can be made by filling out the Public Meeting Comment Form, on beheardharrisonburg.org, or by mailing written comments to Kelley Junco at 320 East Mosby Road, Harrisonburg, VA 22801.

Plan Approval and Adoption

After the public comment period, the SWIP will be finalized and presented to the Stormwater Advisory Committee and the Planning Commission for feedback. The plan will then be presented to City Council for adoption.

Implementation

Once the SWIP has been adopted by City Council, implementation can begin. Projects will be chosen and developed based on the prioritization and ranking criteria, and available funding. The types of projects you might see around the city are outlined below: retrofits to existing BMPs, stream restoration, vegetated filter strips, wet ponds, and bioretention ponds. The City will also work to implement programmatic upgrades.



Vegetated Filter Strip

Vegetated filter strips accept sheet flow from adjacent impervious areas like parking lots. They reduce flow volume of water by infiltration and recharge, and as water passes through the filter strip, pollutants settle and filter out of the water.

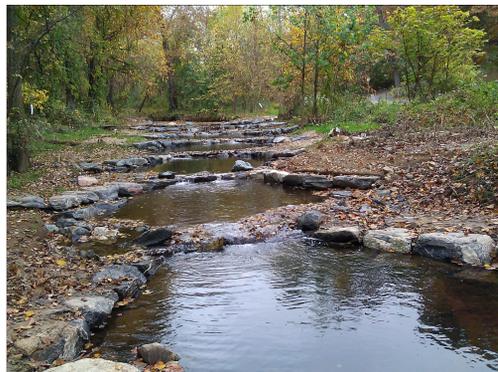


Bioretention Pond

Bioretention ponds treat stormwater runoff from small areas of impervious surface. They contain a bed of filter material and native plants that remove pollutants from stormwater, and they also slow the velocity of stormwater.

Wet Pond

Wet ponds are permanent pools of water that settle sediment and filter pollutants from stormwater. Each time it rains, the stormwater from the new rain displaces pool water from previous storms. Wet ponds can also be attractive landscape features and provide habitat for fish and wildlife.



Stream Restoration

Stream restoration projects work to bring eroded urban streams back to a more natural state. Eroding stream banks are fixed, streams are reconnected to floodplains, in-stream structures are placed to slow the velocity of water during storm events and provide habitat for aquatic species, and native species are planted around the stream. Stream restoration projects remove pollutants from water, increase wildlife habitat, and reduce downstream channel erosion.

What Can You Do to Participate?

- Use the public comment period to tell the City what you think of the Stormwater Improvement Plan. Comments can be submitted during the Open House, posted to beheardharrisonburg.org, or mailed to Kelley Junco at 320 East Mosby Road, Harrisonburg, VA 22801
- Stay tuned for BMP funding opportunities in a new Public/Private Partnership program. Reach out to the City if you recognize your property has been sited with a potential project and you are interested in learning more!
- Keep an eye out for expanded Stormwater Utility Fee Credit opportunities for both Residential and Non-Residential property owners.
- Engage with Stormwater Advisory Committee members and environmental organizations at Black's Run Clean Up Day (April 14, 2018).
- Consider volunteering to improve water quality by cleaning up a stream stretch. Email stormwater@harrisonburgva.gov for stream clean up opportunities.

Questions? Contact Kelley Junco at Kelley.Junco@HarrisonburgVA.gov or (540) 434-5928, or visit HarrisonburgVA.gov/Stormwater-Improvement-Plan