



BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS

Public Comments

Meeting Date

Wednesday, September 16, 2026

BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS
80 Calvert Street
Annapolis MD 21401

SECTION I

Public Comments Submitted Via BPW Website

Department of General Services

31-CGL

Rick Garber: Support

NorthBay Education is a public-private partnership with MSDE and the MD DNR, committed to providing high quality environmental education, leadership and social emotional development programs to schools and students that would otherwise lack access. 81% of our participants are students of color, 72% live below the poverty line and 16% are english language learners. 90% of our funding goes directly to program delivery ensuring equitable access for our students. The capital grant program allows us to continue this commitment to high need communities while ensuring the safety and functionality of the NorthBay campus. In addition to the capital assistance provided through this program 5 years, NorthBay has invested \$5.6m of private funds in capital improvements. The funds before the committee today are essential in updating and replacing electric door locks and security software that keeps are students safe. Thank you for your continued support and commitment to Maryland's students.

42-IT

Ninfa Amador-Hernandez: Oppose

Dear Governor Moore, Treasurer Davis, and Comptroller Lierman,

We Are CASA offers testimony on DGS Item 42-IT in efforts to highlight the increasingly concerning misuse of data by data brokers, including companies that the State of Maryland is contracting with.

Maryland's ongoing contractual relationship with this company—regardless of the specific products at issue today —is troubling in light of the contracts Penlink has with federal agencies including Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), a rogue agency run by masked, untrained, and unaccountable agents with a purpose to fulfill an unlawful and unconstitutional mass deportation and family separation mandate. In early 2026, ICE bought access to a Penlink product “designed to monitor a city neighborhood or block for mobile phones, track the movements of those devices and their owners over time, and follow them from their places of work to home or other locations,” according to public reporting.

We Are CASA also is alarmed by the lack of transparency regarding this item, which threatens to stifle public accountability. Specifically, We Are CASA is aware that this contract is not merely for Penlink's PLX product, as the agency description represents, but may also include a Penlink product known as “Tangles,” described by Penlink as an “AI-driven OSINT [open source

intelligence] platform.” The description in today’s agenda does not disclose this. If the contract, which names and describes only PLX, is actually for both PLX and Tangles, that would be analogous to asking the public and the Board to approve a contract for “knives,” when the contract is actually for both knives and guns.

The Board must not approve any contract for Tangles without seeking input from the public about whether procuring it is in Marylanders’ best interest. According to Penlink, Tangles provides access to the dark web. The dark web contains a wealth of stolen data—as the Chief Privacy Officer of the Federal Trade Commission explained, “when a business suffers a breach, the dark web is often the next stop that sensitive data makes after it’s been stolen.” For example, according to recent reports, a service on the dark web is selling scans of over 153 driver’s licenses from the United States and Canada, thought to have been obtained by a data breach.

Tangles may also have other features deserving of scrutiny. For example, according to reporting, in 2021 Meta banned Cobwebs Technologies—the company that originated Tangles and was acquired by Penlink in 2023—for using hundreds of accounts to snoop on Facebook and WhatsApp users, including activists and politicians. Leaked Tangles training materials from before Cobwebs was acquired by Penlink also suggested it could be used to monitor protesters.

Does this contract include Tangles? Does it include deep web data? Does it include stolen data, such as driver’s license or other data, or otherwise feed the marketplace that incentivizes bad actors traffic sensitive data? Does it include social media data obtained using dummy accounts that snoop on users?

If the answers to these questions reveal practices that Marylanders do not wish to support with their tax dollars or that violate Marylanders’ privacy rights, Marylanders may have ways to hold either Penlink or the Maryland State Police (MSP) accountable. But Marylanders do not even know to ask these questions because the description before the Board is incomplete.

We Are CASA requests full transparency, ongoing audits to ensure compliance with state privacy laws, and public assurance that any and all agencies and taskforces funded through the Governor’s Office of Crime Prevention affirm their commitment fully to following State laws and the Constitution as it regards to information sharing without a warrant, and for the purpose of immigration enforcement.

5-CGL

Aisha Wilson: Support

Agenda Item: OSP 5 | DGS Item: 26-429:

I respectfully submit this comment in strong support of God's Best Family's acquisition of 1121 Marshall Street in Baltimore.

I have supported God's Best Family since 2023 and currently serve as Treasurer. Although I contribute through financial management, grant writing, marketing, events, and organizational support, my commitment to this work is deeply personal and extends far beyond my role.

I did not grow up in a traditional two-parent household. Addiction affected members of my family and, as a result I had to live with other relatives. I know what it means to experience instability and to move through life without always having consistent mentors to guide, encourage, or remind me of what was possible.

What made a difference was having a voice of reason at critical moments—someone willing to speak life into me and plant seeds that continued to grow long after the conversation ended. That experience taught me that one encouraging voice, one meaningful relationship, or one person who genuinely believes in you can help change the direction of your life.

That is what I see in God's Best Family. The organization provides children with the encouragement, exposure, guidance, and consistency that many may not receive elsewhere. Through education, mentorship, enrichment, meals, family support, and simply showing up, God's Best Family plants seeds in children throughout South Baltimore. We may not always see immediately how those seeds will grow, but we understand the lasting power of helping a child feel seen, supported, and capable of becoming more than their present circumstances.

That is why I show up for the children. I recognize parts of my own story in the young people we serve, and I believe every child deserves a voice reminding them that where they begin does not determine where they can go. God's Best Family creates those moments through relationships grounded in trust, accountability, consistency, and genuine care.

In 2025 alone, God's Best Family served more than 1,700 individuals while operating within limited and temporary space. Acquiring 1121 Marshall Street would give this work a permanent home and allow the organization to reach more children, families, and community members. The facility would provide space for education, mentorship, enrichment, family support, meetings, and expanded programming while helping God's Best Family work toward serving the community throughout the day.

This acquisition is about far more than purchasing a building. It is about creating a place where children can walk through the doors and know someone sees them, believes in them, and is willing to invest in their future. It is about giving families access to trusted support and providing South Baltimore with a stable community resource built to serve for years to come.

I respectfully ask the Board of Public Works to approve God's Best Family's capital grant agreement and support the acquisition of 1121 Marshall Street. This investment will give God's Best Family the capacity to reach more children, plant more seeds, and continue being the voice of encouragement that can help change a life.

2. *Keme Jones: Support*

Item 5-CGL | DGS items: 26-429:

I strongly support God's Best Family and their request for funding to establish a permanent community facility\ . I have personally witnessed the positive impact they have on our community and youth\ . I have attended their Chat & Chews, where they address real topics and provide resources that help families navigate challenges\ . My son also participated in their Boys Retreat, where he learned about self\ -respect, respect for others, personal responsibility, and important life and survival skills\ . God's Best Family consistently gives back and creates opportunities that empower our youth and strengthen families\ . A permanent community space would allow them to reach even more children and families in South Baltimore. I fully support this funding.

Department of Natural Resources

12A

Irene Marsh: Support

I am writing to express my strong support for the City of Hyattsville's request for a \$3.5 million Greenspace Equity grant to purchase land that lies adjacent to the City's Driskell Park. I urge you to approve the full amount requested by the City and recommended by the Department of Natural Resources. This grant is essential to long-standing goals of seeing the City acquire that land, add it to Driskell Park, and restore it ecologically.

Restoring this property ecologically and making it available for public use and enjoyment would enhance local climate resilience, support stream health, expand local habitat for native biodiversity, and create a welcoming green space for local residents.

Allison Corbett: Support

September 13 2026

The Honorable Wes Moore

Governor of Maryland

The Honorable Brooke Lierman

Comptroller of Maryland

The Honorable Dereck Davis

Treasurer of Maryland

Request: Please Approve the Hyattsville's Request for a \$3.5 million Greenspace Equity Grant.
Support Community Health and Environmental Restoration

Dear Governor Moore, Comptroller Lierman, and Treasurer Davis,

I am writing to express my strong support for the City of Hyattsville's request for a \$3.5 million Greenspace Equity grant to purchase land that lies adjacent to the City's Driskell Park. I urge you to approve the full amount requested by the City and recommended by the Department of Natural Resources. This grant is essential to long-standing goals of seeing the City acquire that land, add it to Driskell Park, and restore it ecologically.

This land is located within a few hundred yards of the Anacostia River's Northwest Branch and is adjacent to a nontidal wetland, a forested stream valley, and the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commissions' Magruder Woods Park. Most or all of the land the City seeks to purchase lies within the Northwest Branch's 100-year floodplain.

Driskell Park is located in the midst of a socially and economically diverse community, and is the City's busiest park. It is within walking and biking distance of thousands of residences, including many apartments, and it serves as a treasured gathering place where local residents can rest, relax, socialize, recreate, and enjoy and learn about the area's human history and natural resources.

Restoring this property ecologically and making it available for public use and enjoyment would enhance local climate resilience, support stream health, expand local habitat for native biodiversity, and create a welcoming green space for local residents.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Allison Corbett

5602 45th Ave

Hyattsville

allisonccorbett@gmail.com

Robert Duncan: Support

My property at 4003 Buchanan St directly adjoins Driskell Park. The proposed development of the Parcel by the Park will greatly improve the natural area that receives water flow from this parcel. Thus improving my property, the quality of the immediate area and ecological balance of run-off and absorbance of the sun's heat. Please approve the full \$3.5 million dollar grant.

Leah Wolf: Support

September 13, 2026

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Restoring this property ecologically and making it available for public use and enjoyment would enhance local climate resilience, support stream health, expand local habitat for native biodiversity, and create a welcoming green space for local residents.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Leah R. Wolf

4211 Farragut Street, Hyattsville, MD 20781

leah.wolf@verizon.net

María Isabel Dabrowski: Support

September 13, 2026

The Honorable Wes Moore

Governor of Maryland

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Thank you for your time and consideration.

María Isabel Dabrowski

5334 Baltimore Ave

Apt 661

Hyattsville, MD

20781

Danny Schaible: Support

September 13, 2026

The Honorable Wes Moore

Governor of Maryland

The Honorable Brooke Lierman

Comptroller of Maryland

The Honorable Dereck Davis

Treasurer of Maryland

Request: Please Approve the Hyattsville's Request for a \$3.5 million Greenspace Equity Grant.
Support Community Health and Environmental Restoration

Dear Governor Moore, Comptroller Lierman, and Treasurer Davis,

The acquisition and restoration of this parcel is of paramount concern to Hyattsville residents.

The full \$3.5 million grant will allow us to realize a dream that has been fought for for over 20 years, and allow the City of Hyattsville to expand our largest and most popular park, David C. Driskell park.

We are almost there. Please support in this final stage of acquisition.

Appreciatively,

Hyattsville Council Member Danny Schaible, Ward 2

Lisa Davidson: Support

Please approve the full \$3.5 million Greenspace Equity grant to the City of Hyattsville. We have precious little open space in this part of Prince George's County and this grant is essential for reclaiming land that should be added to Driskell Park.

Amanda Eisen: Support

Dear Governor Moore, Comptroller Lierman, and Treasurer Davis,

I am writing to express my strong support for the City of Hyattsville's request for a \$3.5 million Greenspace Equity grant to purchase land that lies adjacent to the City's Driskell Park. I urge you to approve the full amount requested by the City and recommended by the Department of Natural Resources. This grant is essential to long-standing goals of seeing the City acquire that land, add it to Driskell Park, and restore it ecologically.

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Restoring this property ecologically and making it available for public use and enjoyment would enhance local climate resilience, support stream health, expand local habitat for native biodiversity, and create a welcoming green space for local residents.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Amanda Eisen, 4028 Hamilton Street, Hyattsville MD 20781

Greta Mosher: Support

September 13, 2026

The Honorable Wes Moore

Governor of Maryland

The Honorable Brooke Lierman

Comptroller of Maryland

The Honorable Dereck Davis

Treasurer of Maryland

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Thank you for your time and consideration.

Greta Mosher

4002 Crittenden St

Hyattsville MD 20781

Steve Larrance: Support

September 13, 2026

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Restoring this property ecologically and making it available for public use and enjoyment would enhance local climate resilience, support stream health, expand local habitat for native biodiversity, and create a welcoming green space for local residents.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Steve Larrance

4002 Crittenden St

Hyattsville MD 20781

Mary Ellsworth: Support

Request: Approve the Hyattsville's Request for a \$3.5 million Greenspace Equity Grant.

Dear Governor Moore, Comptroller Lierman, and Treasurer Davis,

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Restoring this property ecologically and making it available for public use and enjoyment would enhance local climate resilience, support stream health, expand local habitat for native biodiversity, and create a welcoming green space for local residents.

Approving this grant will enable the city to acquire this well situated parcel of greenspace, where local residents can relax, socialize and learn about the area's human history and natural resources.

Thank you for your consideration. I'm hopeful of your support.

Mary S Ellsworth, Retired Science Educator

Hyattsville, MD

Julie Wolf: Support

September 14, 2026

The Honorable Wes Moore

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This land is located within a few hundred yards of the Anacostia River's Northwest Branch and is adjacent to a nontidal wetland, a forested stream valley, and the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commissions' Magruder Woods Park. Almost all of the land the City seeks to purchase lies within the Northwest Branch's 100-year floodplain and restoring it to slow the flow of stormwater will be increasingly important.

Driskell Park, located in the midst of a socially and economically diverse community, is the City's busiest park. It is within walking and biking distance of perhaps thousands of residences, including many apartments, and it serves as a treasured gathering place where local residents can rest, relax, socialize, recreate, and enjoy and learn about the area's human history and natural resources.

Restoring this property ecologically and making it available for public use and enjoyment would enhance local climate resilience, support stream health, expand local habitat for native biodiversity, and create a welcoming green space for local residents.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Julie Wolf and Corey Twyman

4008 Hamilton Street, Hyattsville, MD 20781

thejuliewolf@gmail.com and coreytwyman@gmail.com

Leigh Altman: Support

September 14, 2026

The Honorable Wes Moore

Governor of Maryland

The Honorable Brooke Lierman

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Request: Please Approve Hyattsville's Request for a \$3.5 million Greenspace Equity Grant.
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Thank you for your time and consideration.

Leigh Altman

4209 Farragut Street

Hyattsville, MD 20781

macaltman@verizon.net

Trey Sherard: Support

The Honorable Wes Moore

Governor of Maryland

The Honorable Brooke Lierman

Comptroller of Maryland

The Honorable Dereck Davis

Treasurer of Maryland

Request: Please Approve Hyattsville's Request for a \$3.5 million Greenspace Equity Grant.
Support Community Health, Climate Resilience and Environmental Restoration

Dear Governor Moore, Comptroller Lierman, and Treasurer Davis,

It is a rare opportunity in the Anacostia River watershed to protect more of the watershed from ever-increasing stormwater pollution. I am writing to express my strong support for the City of Hyattsville's request for a \$3.5 million Greenspace Equity grant to purchase land adjacent to the City's Driskell Park. I urge you to approve the full amount requested by the City and recommended by the Department of Natural Resources. This grant is essential to long-standing goals of seeing the City acquire that land, add it to Driskell Park, and restore it ecologically.

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Thank you for your time and consideration.

Trey Sherard

Riverkeeper

Anacostia Riverkeeper

Allison Kole: Support

Request: Please Support Community Health and Climate Resilience by approving Hyattsville's Request for a \$3.5 million Greenspace Equity Grant.

Dear Governor Moore, Comptroller Lierman, and Treasurer Davis,

I am writing to express my strong support for the City of Hyattsville's request for a \$3.5 million Greenspace Equity grant to purchase land adjacent to the City's Driskell Park. With these funds we can win a rare achievement of adding land for ALL PG County residents and future generations.

This land is located within a few hundred yards of the Anacostia River's Northwest Branch and is adjacent to a nontidal wetland, a forested stream valley, and the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commissions' Magruder Woods Park. This land is vital to the long-term preservation of David C. Driskell Park, and will help communities downstream in a warmer and rainier Maryland.

Driskell Park is located in the midst of a socially and economically diverse community, and is the City's busiest park. I am a U6 Soccer coach and the joy of the community gathering each Saturday there for games is contagious. Restoring this property just next to the recreation portions of the park will give kids access to nature that they otherwise do not have and will support the health of the stream system and Anacostia watershed. Please support the use of funds for health and mental wellness of residents years to come.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Catherine Anderton: Support

I strongly support the proposal to provide a \$3.5 million Greenspace Equity grant to the City of Hyattsville for the purchase of land adjacent to the City's Driskell Park. This parcel was previously used as a parking lot for a WSSC building which has since been torn down and replaced with housing. The lot has sat vacant for years. It would be a tremendous addition to Driskell Park and would provide green space to the growing population of Hyattsville.

Christine Blackerby: Support

September 14, 2026

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Restoring this property ecologically and making it available for public use and enjoyment would enhance local climate resilience, support stream health, expand local habitat for native biodiversity, and create a welcoming green space for local residents.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Christine Blackerby

3706 Jefferson Street

Hyattsville, MD 20782

Alexis Banks: Support

Dear Governor Moore, Comptroller Lierman, and Treasurer Davis,

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Restoring this property ecologically and making it available for public use and enjoyment would enhance local climate resilience, support stream health, expand local habitat for native biodiversity, and create a welcoming green space for local residents.

Thank you for your time and consideration!

Alexis Banks

5703 37th Ave

Hyattsville, MD 20782

Eli Braun: Support

September 15, 2026

Request: Please Approve Hyattsville's Request for a \$3.5 million Greenspace Equity Grant.
Support Community Health, Climate Resilience and Environmental Restoration

Dear Governor Moore, Comptroller Lierman, and Treasurer Davis,

Thousands of people use Driskell Park in Hyattsville--teens playing basketball, older folks playing pickleball, kids swarming the ice cream trucks. There are youth soccer leagues on weeknights and on Saturday mornings. There are 100-person family reunions under the pavillions on weekend afternoons. There are hikers enjoying the only shaded trail in Hyattsville. In the summer, there's a line to enter the splash park.

Driskell Park may be the most diverse shared space in our City of Hyattsville--generationally, racially, economically, nationally, I hear so many languages being spoken.

Expanding the park is the right move for this community. We will invest in the expansion and make it a treasured, beautiful space.

I urge you to approve the full amount requested by the City and recommended by the Department of Natural Resources.

Thank you,

Eli Braun

Hyattsville, MD

Lesley Murdock: Support

Dear Governor Moore, Comptroller Lierman, and Treasurer Davis,

I am writing to express my strong support for the City of Hyattsville's request for a \$3.5 million Greenspace Equity grant to purchase land adjacent to the City's Driskell Park. I urge you to approve the full amount requested by the City and recommended by the Department of Natural Resources. This grant is essential to long-standing goals of seeing the City acquire that land, add it to Driskell Park, and restore it ecologically.

This land is located within a few hundred yards of the Anacostia River's Northwest Branch and is adjacent to a nontidal wetland, a forested stream valley, and the Maryland-National Capital

Park and Planning Commissions' Magruder Woods Park. Most or all of the land the City seeks to purchase lies within the Northwest Branch's 100-year floodplain.

Driskell Park is located in the midst of a socially and economically diverse community, and is the City's busiest park. It is within walking and biking distance of perhaps thousands of residences, including many apartments, and it serves as a treasured gathering place where local residents can rest, relax, socialize, recreate, and enjoy and learn about the area's human history and natural resources.

Restoring this property ecologically and making it available for public use and enjoyment would enhance local climate resilience, support stream health, expand local habitat for native biodiversity, and create a welcoming green space for local residents.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sarah Finnegan: Support

Request: Please Approve Hyattsville's Request for a \$3.5 million Greenspace Equity Grant.
Support Community Health, Climate Resilience and Environmental Restoration

Dear Governor Moore, Comptroller Lierman, and Treasurer Davis,

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Restoring this property ecologically and making it available for public use and enjoyment would enhance local climate resilience, support stream health, expand local habitat for native biodiversity, and create a welcoming green space for local residents.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sarah Finnegan

4409 Longfellow St

Hyattsville, MD 20781

Jennie Reinhardt: Support

September 15, 2026

The Honorable Wes Moore

Governor of Maryland

The Honorable Brooke Lierman

Comptroller of Maryland

The Honorable Dereck Davis

Treasurer of Maryland

Request: Please Approve Hyattsville's Request for a \$3.5 million Greenspace Equity Grant.
Support Community Health, Climate Resilience and Environmental Restoration

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This land is within a few hundred yards of the Anacostia River's Northwest Branch and is adjacent to a nontidal wetland, a forested stream valley, and the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission's Magruder Woods Park. Most or all of the land the City seeks to purchase lies within the Northwest Branch's 100-year floodplain.

Driskell Park is positioned in the midst of a socially and economically diverse community, and is the City's busiest park. It is within walking and biking distance of hundreds of residences, including many apartments, and is a treasured gathering place where local residents rest, relax, socialize, play, and enjoy and learn about the area's human history and natural resources.

Restoring this property ecologically and making it available for public use and enjoyment would enhance local climate resilience, support stream health, expand local habitat for native biodiversity, and create a welcoming green space for local residents.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Jennie Reinhardt

4105 Gallatin St., Hyattsville, MD 20781

jcrein7@gmail.com

Robert Meyers: Support

September 15, 2026

The Honorable Wes Moore

Governor of Maryland

The Honorable Brooke Lierman

Comptroller of Maryland

The Honorable Dereck Davis

Treasurer of Maryland

Request: Please Approve Hyattsville's Request for a \$3.5 million Greenspace Equity Grant.
Support Community Health, Climate Resilience and Environmental Restoration

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For the 10 years I have lived in Hyattsville, this land was derelict and an eyesore. Chainlink fencing around a large empty space of broken asphalt. Nearby construction created flooding in rainstorms and now it has sat empty with concrete culvert piled about and eroding dirt.

This land is located within a few hundred yards of the Anacostia River's Northwest Branch and is adjacent to a nontidal wetland, a forested stream valley, and the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commissions' Magruder Woods Park. Most or all of the land the City seeks to purchase lies within the Northwest Branch's 100-year floodplain.

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Restoring this property ecologically and making it available for public use and enjoyment would enhance local climate resilience, support stream health, expand local habitat for native biodiversity, and create a welcoming green space for local residents.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Robert Meyers

3925 Nicholson St., Hyattsville, MD 20782

Maureen Vosmek: Support

September 15, 2026

The Honorable Wes Moore

Governor of Maryland

The Honorable Brooke Lierman

Comptroller of Maryland

The Honorable Dereck Davis

Treasurer of Maryland

Request: Please Approve Hyattsville's Request for a \$3.5 million Greenspace Equity Grant.
Support Community Health, Climate Resilience and Environmental Restoration

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Driskell Park is located in the midst of a socially and economically diverse community, and is the City's busiest park. It is within walking and biking distance of perhaps thousands of residences, including many apartments, and it serves as a treasured gathering place where local residents can rest, relax, socialize, recreate, and enjoy and learn about the area's human history and natural resources.

Restoring this property ecologically and making it available for public use and enjoyment would enhance local climate resilience, support stream health, expand local habitat for native biodiversity, and create a welcoming green space for local residents.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Maureen Vosmek

5732 39th Ave

Hyattsville, MD 20781

maureen@vosmek.org

Sarah Harper : Support

As a resident of Hyattsville for over 40 years, I am writing to express my strong support for the City of Hyattsville's request for a \$3.5 million Greenspace Equity grant to purchase land adjacent to the City's Driskell Park. I urge you to approve the full amount requested by the City and recommended by the Department of Natural Resources. This grant is essential to long-standing goals of seeing the City acquire that land, add it to Driskell Park, and restore it ecologically.

Driskell Park is used by many residents of Hyattsville and from other towns. The walking trails, the playing fields, the playground. It will be more healthful for the whole area if the City of Hyattsville is able to buy the land parcel and turn it into green space. It has been paved over for decades.

Thanks for your consideration.

Jessica Weiss: Support

Request: Please Approve Hyattsville's Request for a \$3.5 million Greenspace Equity Grant.
Support Community Health, Climate Resilience and Environmental Restoration

Dear Governor Moore, Comptroller Lierman, and Treasurer Davis,

I am writing to express my strong support for the City of Hyattsville's request for a \$3.5 million Greenspace Equity grant to purchase land adjacent to the City's Driskell Park. I urge you to approve the full amount requested by the City and recommended by the Department of Natural Resources. This grant is essential to long-standing goals of seeing the City acquire that land, add it to Driskell Park, and restore it ecologically.

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Restoring this property ecologically and making it available for public use and enjoyment would enhance local climate resilience, support stream health, expand local habitat for native biodiversity, and create a welcoming green space for local residents.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Jessica Weiss

5606 43rd Avenue, Hyattsville

Jacqueline Beagle: Support

Please Approve Hyattsville's Full Request for a \$3.5 million Greenspace Equity Grant

Peter Daniels : Support

September 15, 2026

The Honorable Wes Moore

Governor of Maryland

The Honorable Brooke Lierman

Comptroller of Maryland

The Honorable Dereck Davis

Treasurer of Maryland

Request: Please Approve the Hyattsville's Request for a \$3.5 million Greenspace Equity Grant.
Support Community Health and Environmental Restoration

Dear Governor Moore, Comptroller Lierman, and Treasurer Davis,

As a resident of Hyattsville since 2008, I am writing to express my strong support for the City's request for a \$3.5 million Greenspace Equity grant to purchase land that lies adjacent to Driskell Park. Please approve the full amount requested by the City and recommended by the Department of Natural Resources. This grant is essential to accomplishing the long long-standing goal of acquiring the land for the City and adding it to Driskell Park.

This land is located within a few hundred yards of the Anacostia River's Northwest Branch and is adjacent to a nontidal wetland, a forested stream valley, and the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commissions' Magruder Woods Park. Most or all of the land the City seeks to purchase lies within the Northwest Branch's 100-year floodplain. It is a beautiful area which thankfully has been spared from an ill-advised and illegal development plan.

Driskell is the City's busiest Park, located in the midst of a socially and economically diverse community. It is within walking and biking distance of perhaps thousands of residences, including many apartments, and it serves as a treasured gathering place where local residents can rest, relax, socialize, recreate, and enjoy and learn about the area's human history and natural resources.

Restoring this property ecologically and making it available for public use and enjoyment would enhance local climate resilience, support stream health, expand local habitat for native biodiversity, and create a welcoming green space for local residents.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Peter Daniels

5720 39th Ave

Hyattsville, MD 20781

phdaniel7@hotmail.com

Christopher Currie: Support

The Honorable Wes Moore

Governor of Maryland

The Honorable Brooke Lierman

Comptroller of Maryland

The Honorable Dereck Davis

Treasurer of Maryland

Request: Please Approve Hyattsville's Request for a \$3.5 million Greenspace Equity Grant.
Support Community Health, Climate Resilience and Environmental Restoration

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Restoring this property ecologically and making it available for public use and enjoyment would enhance local climate resilience, support stream health, expand local habitat for native biodiversity, and create a welcoming green space for local residents.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Christopher Currie

4100 Crittenden St.

Hyattsville, MD 20781

SECTION II

Public Comments Submitted Via Email



BPW 9/16/26 - Speaker Request - DNR 12A

Greg Smith <gpsmith@igc.org>

Mon, Sep 14, 2026 at 9:49 AM

To: Lisa Grigsby <lisa.grigsby@maryland.gov>

Cc: John Gontrum -BPW- <john.gontrum@maryland.gov>, Rbiai Ouazene -BPW- <rbiai.ouazene@maryland.gov>

Good morning, Ms. Grigsby.

Thanks for the update and the guidance. Understood. I plan to submit written additional comments tomorrow.

As background, I've helped coordinate the grassroots community and nonprofit campaign since 2018 to protect this land and develop a vision for restoring it for public use.

I am attaching a presentation of possible restoration approaches. Sustainable Hyattsville worked last year and early this year with Lillian Austin, a University Maryland master's student in landscape architecture. Lillian made this restoration the subject of her successful master's thesis. At our request, Lillian focused on enhancing climate resilience, protecting and enhancing aquatic resource, expanding habitat for native biodiversity, and creating a welcoming green space for the community. Lillian's presentation has been well received, and we plan to promote this vision at the County's annual Green Summit in Driskell Park in October.

Thanks for your time and assistance.

Best regards,

Greg Smith
Board Member
Sustainable Hyattsville
(240)605-9238

Restoring Floodplain Function:

Integrating Ecological Restoration, Water Quality, and Human
Use in a Public Park in Hyattsville, Maryland

Committee

Dr. Christopher Ellis

Lisa Kuder

Dr. Andrew Baldwin

Dr. David Myers

Design Goals

The design should increase habitat and biodiversity by establishing multiple resilient native plant communities appropriate to site conditions that support native wildlife.

The design should restore ecological and hydrological function by allowing water to slow, spread, and infiltrate the ground plane and interact with plant communities.

The design should reduce sediment and nutrient loads entering downstream wetlands through natural treatment processes such as sediment capture, vegetated filtration, and increased water residence time.

The design should foster public engagement and long-term stewardship by providing opportunities for people to experience, understand, and participate in the landscape while supporting feasible maintenance practices.



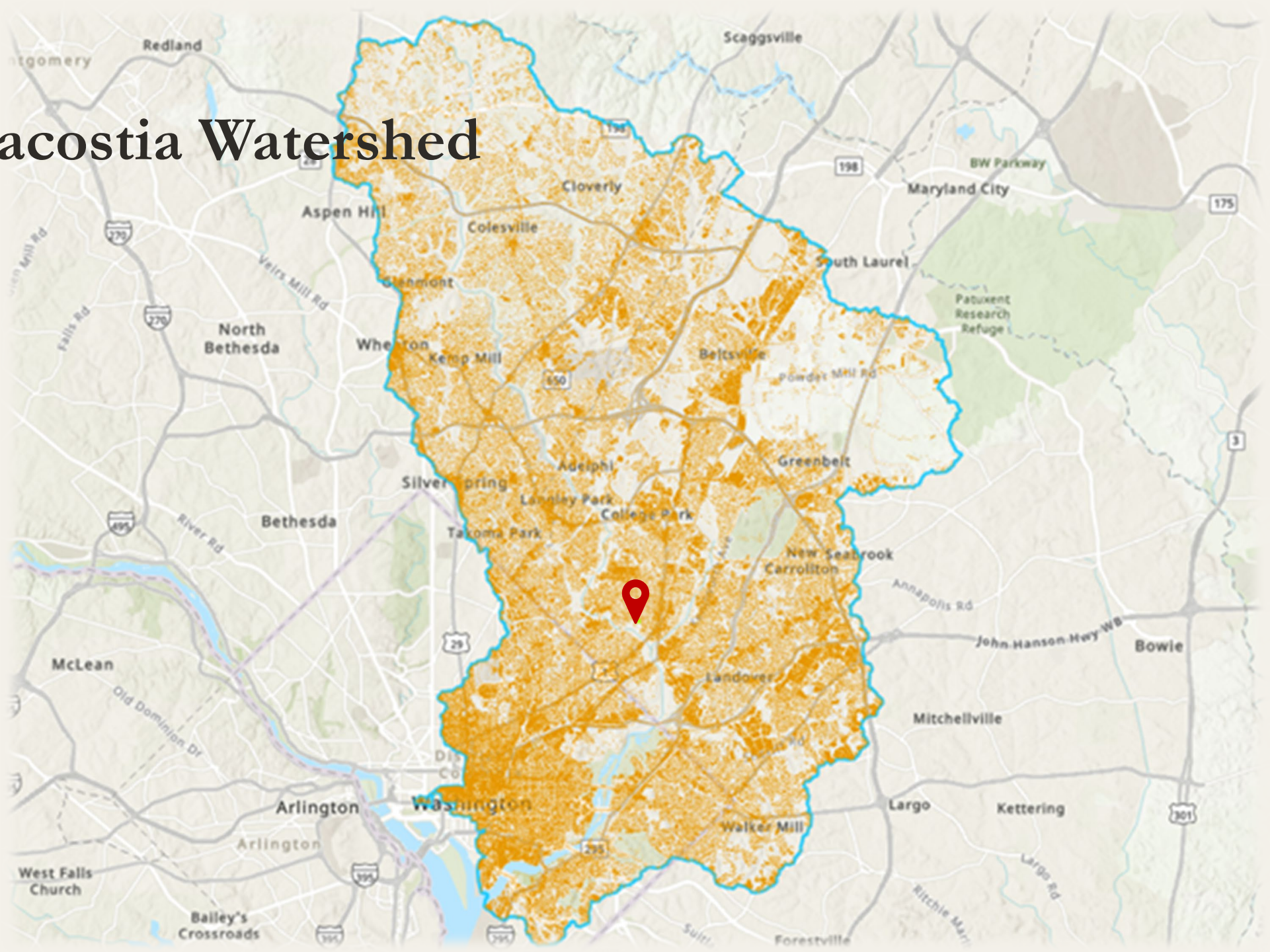
Understanding the Site



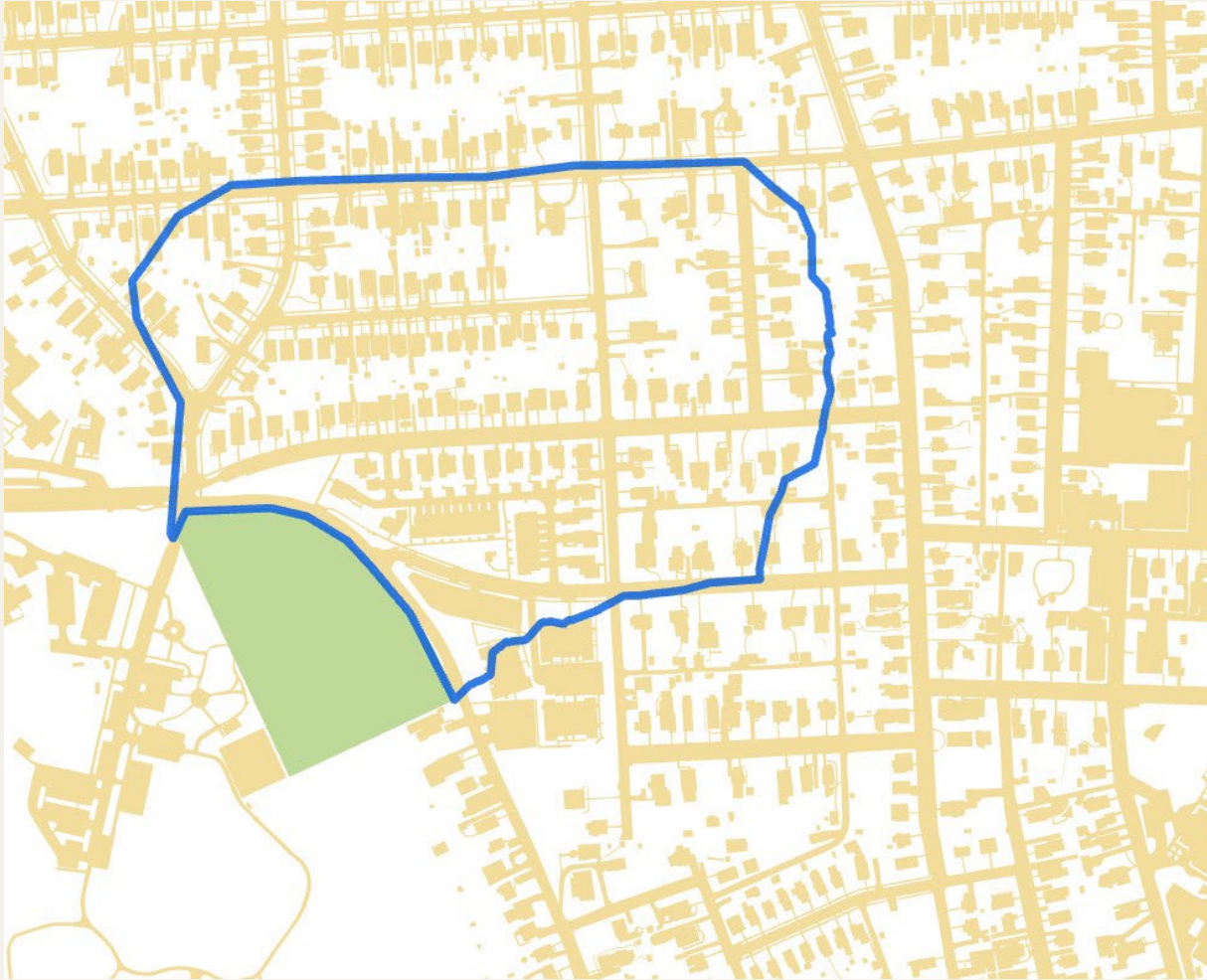
Regional Context



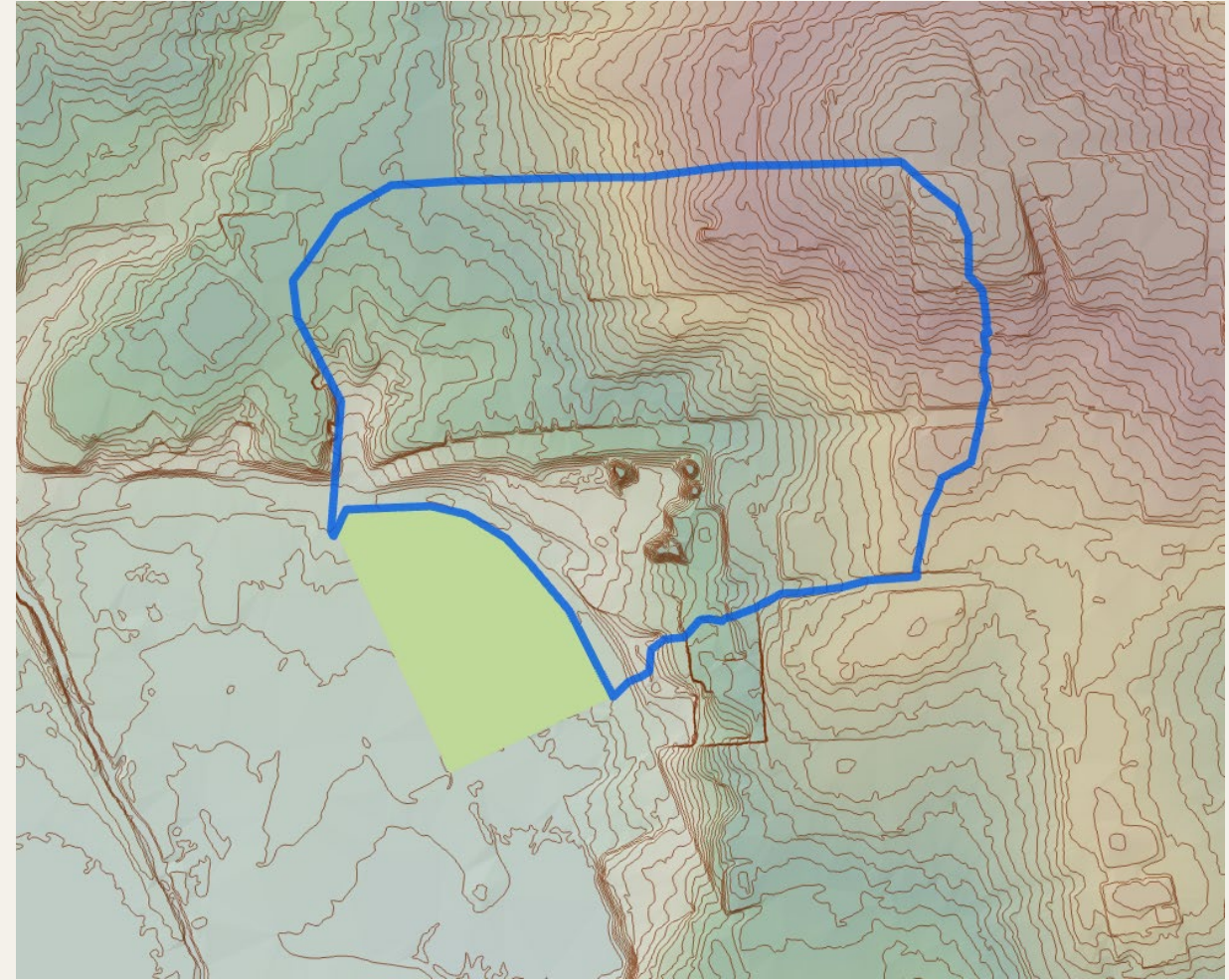
Anacostia Watershed



Catchment Watershed



Impervious Surfaces



Slope

Site Hydrology and Floodplain



FEMA Flood Map



Soils and Topography



Soils are degraded but range from dry-upland soils to hydric soils



Historic Grading Removed Natural Landforms

Contours show signs of intentional land flattening

Existing Conditions: View South Towards Natural Area

Palustrine
Wetland

Park
Playground

Remnant
Asphalt

Existing Conditions: View from East towards Driskell Park



Ruderal
Species

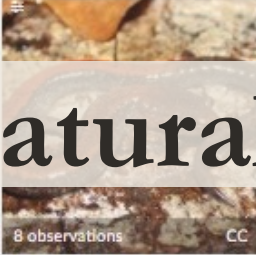
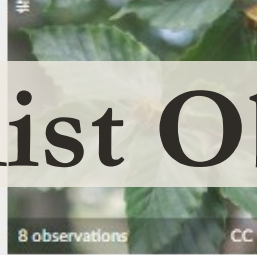
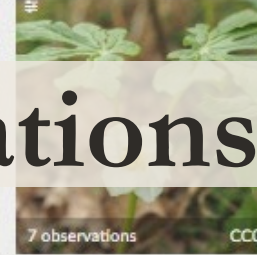
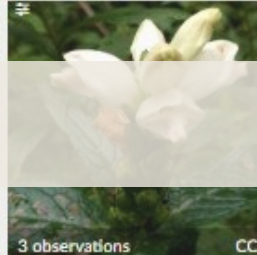
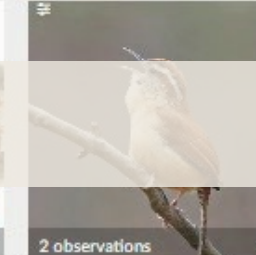
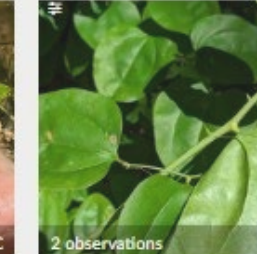
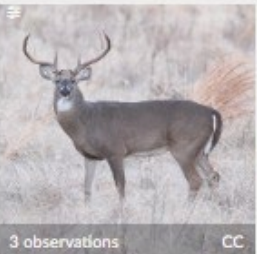
Park
Playground

Gravel

Existing Wetlands



iNaturalist Observations

 29 observations CC Eastern Skunk Cabbage (<i>Symplocarpus foetidus</i>)	 8 observations CC Eastern Red-backed Salamander (<i>Plethodon cinereus</i>)	 8 observations CC American Beech (<i>Fagus grandifolia</i>)	 8 observations CC Common Pawpaw (<i>Asimina triloba</i>)	 7 observations CC0 Mayapple (<i>Podophyllum peltatum</i>)	 3 observations CC White Turtlehead (<i>Chelone glabra</i>)	 3 observations CC Acuminate Crayfish (<i>Cambarus acuminatus</i>)	 2 observations CC Carolina Wren (<i>Thryothorus ludovicianus</i>)	 2 observations CC American Robin (<i>Turdus migratorius</i>)
 6 observations CC American Tuliptree (<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>)	 6 observations CC Northern Spicebush (<i>Lindera benzoin</i>)	 6 observations CC Cinnamon Fern (<i>Osmundastrum cinnamomeum</i>)	 5 observations CC Summer Snowflake (<i>Leucojum aestivum</i>)	 5 observations CC Ground-Ivy (<i>Glechoma hederacea</i>)	 2 observations CC DeKay's Brownsnake (<i>Storeria dekayi</i>)	 2 observations CC0 Red Maple (<i>Acer rubrum</i>)	 2 observations CC American Sweetgum (<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>)	 2 observations CC Virginia Creeper (<i>Parthenocissus quinquefolia</i>)
 5 observations CC American Holly (<i>Ilex opaca</i>)	 4 observations CC Turkey-Tail (<i>Trametes versicolor</i>)	 4 observations CC Sensitive Fern (<i>Onoclea sensibilis</i>)	 4 observations CC Aniseroot (<i>Osmorhiza longistylis</i>)	 4 observations CC New York Fern (<i>Amauropelta noveboracensis</i>)	 2 observations CC Catchweed Bedstraw (<i>Gallium aparine</i>)	 2 observations CC White Oak (<i>Quercus alba</i>)	 2 observations CC Eastern Blacknose Dace (<i>Rhinichthys atratulus</i>)	 2 observations CC Roundleaf Greenbrier (<i>Smilax rotundifolia</i>)
 3 observations CC White-tailed Deer (<i>Odocoileus virginianus</i>)	 3 observations CC Chicken of the Woods (<i>Laetiporus sulphureus</i>)	 3 observations CC Black Tupelo (<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>)	 3 observations CC Eastern Poison Ivy (<i>Toxicodendron radicans</i>)	 3 observations CC Dark Fishing Spider (<i>Dolomedes tenebrosus</i>)	 1 observation CC Jack-in-the-Pulpit (<i>Arisaema triphyllum</i>)	 1 observation CC0 Eastern White Pine (<i>Pinus strobus</i>)	 1 observation CC American Hornbeam (<i>Carpinus caroliniana</i>)	

Design Process



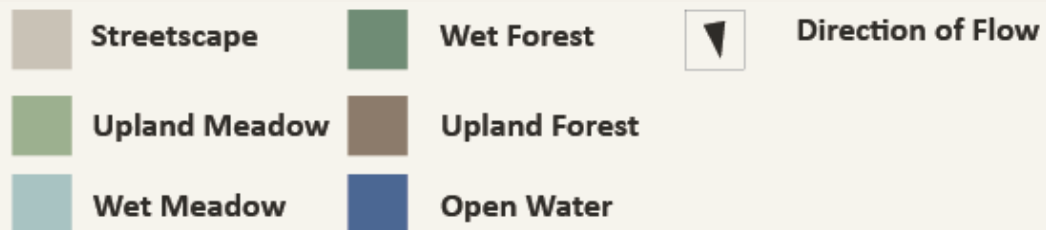
#1 Simple Daylit Channel

Strengths

- Stormwater pipe removed and channel daylit
- Grading outside of channel remains the same
- Simplest concept requiring the least grading

Limitations:

- Limited habitat restoration
- Minimal filtration opportunities



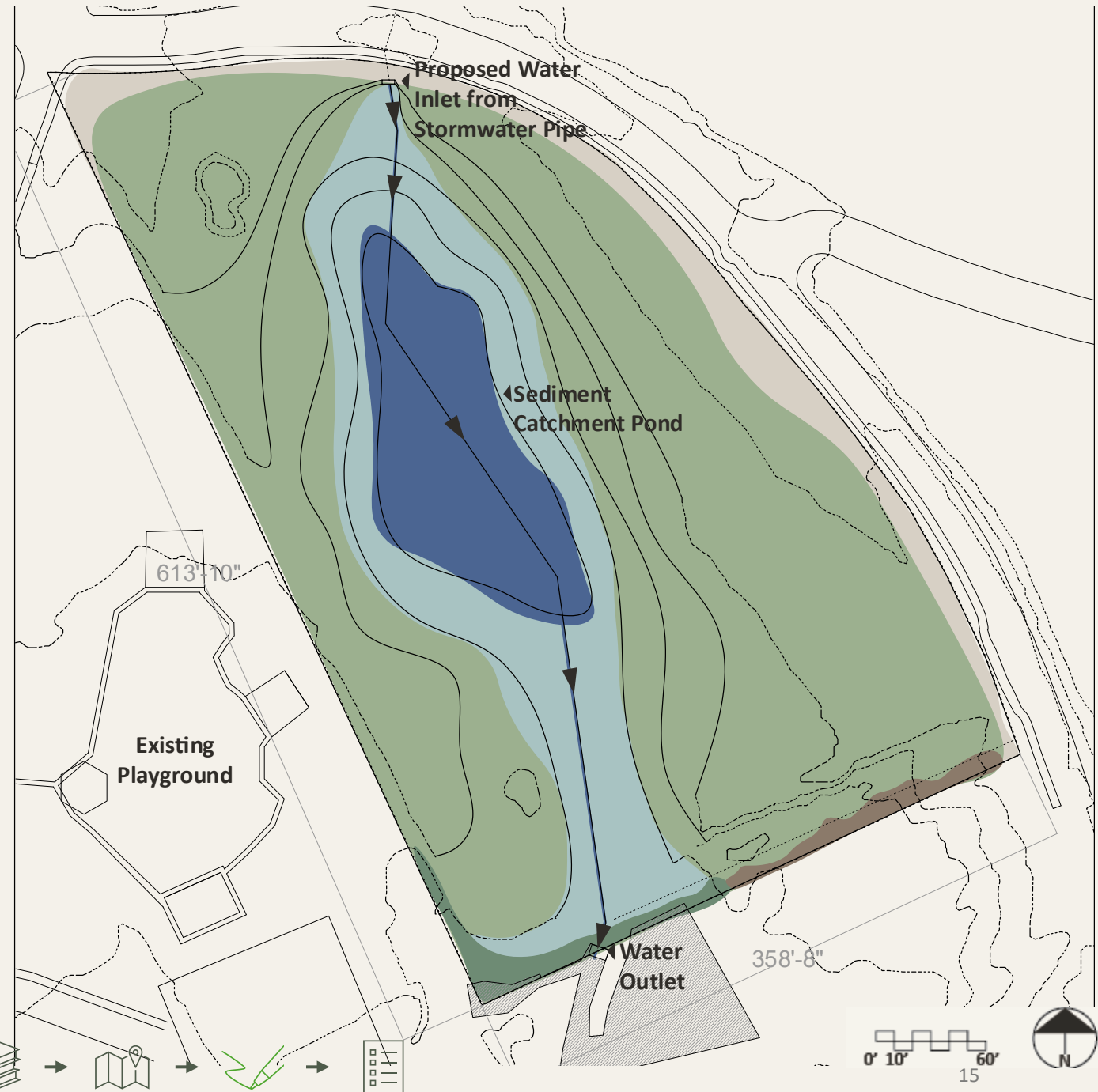
#2 Sediment Catchment Pond

Strengths

- Stormwater pipe removed and channel daylight
- Catchment pond allows sediment to settle prior to water leaving the site
- Higher amount of habitat created

Limitations

- Increased grading and site disturbance
- Pond creates a physical barrier for circulation from East to West



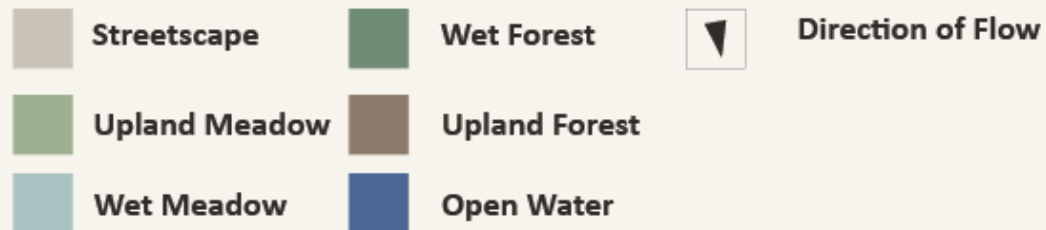
#3 Three Cell System

Strengths

- Stormwater pipe removed and channel daylight
- Sediment is captured at water inlet
- Higher amount of habitat created
- Wetlands filter water and increase water quality benefits
- Provides greatest ecological function

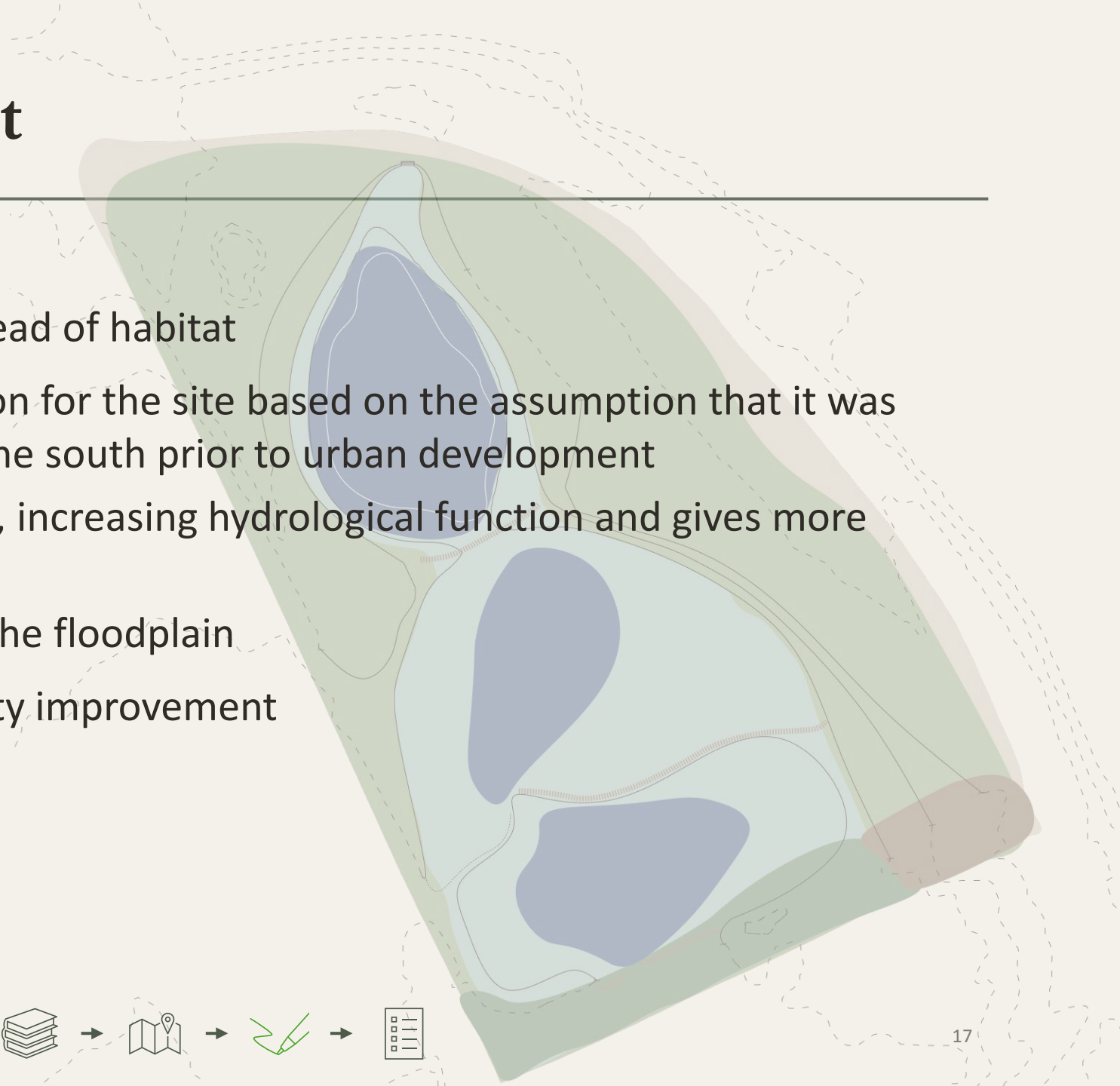
Limitations

- Complex system
- Regrading required

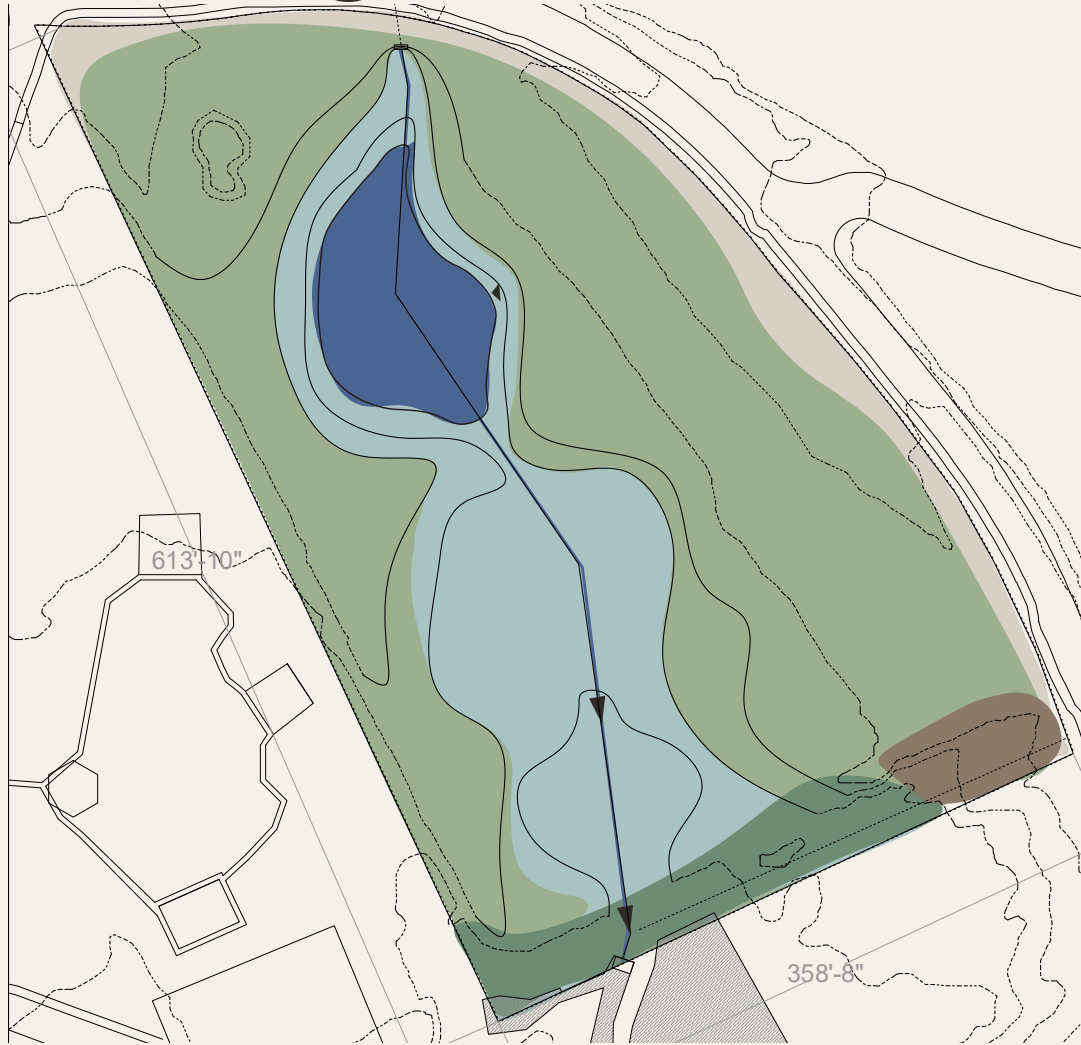


Design Development

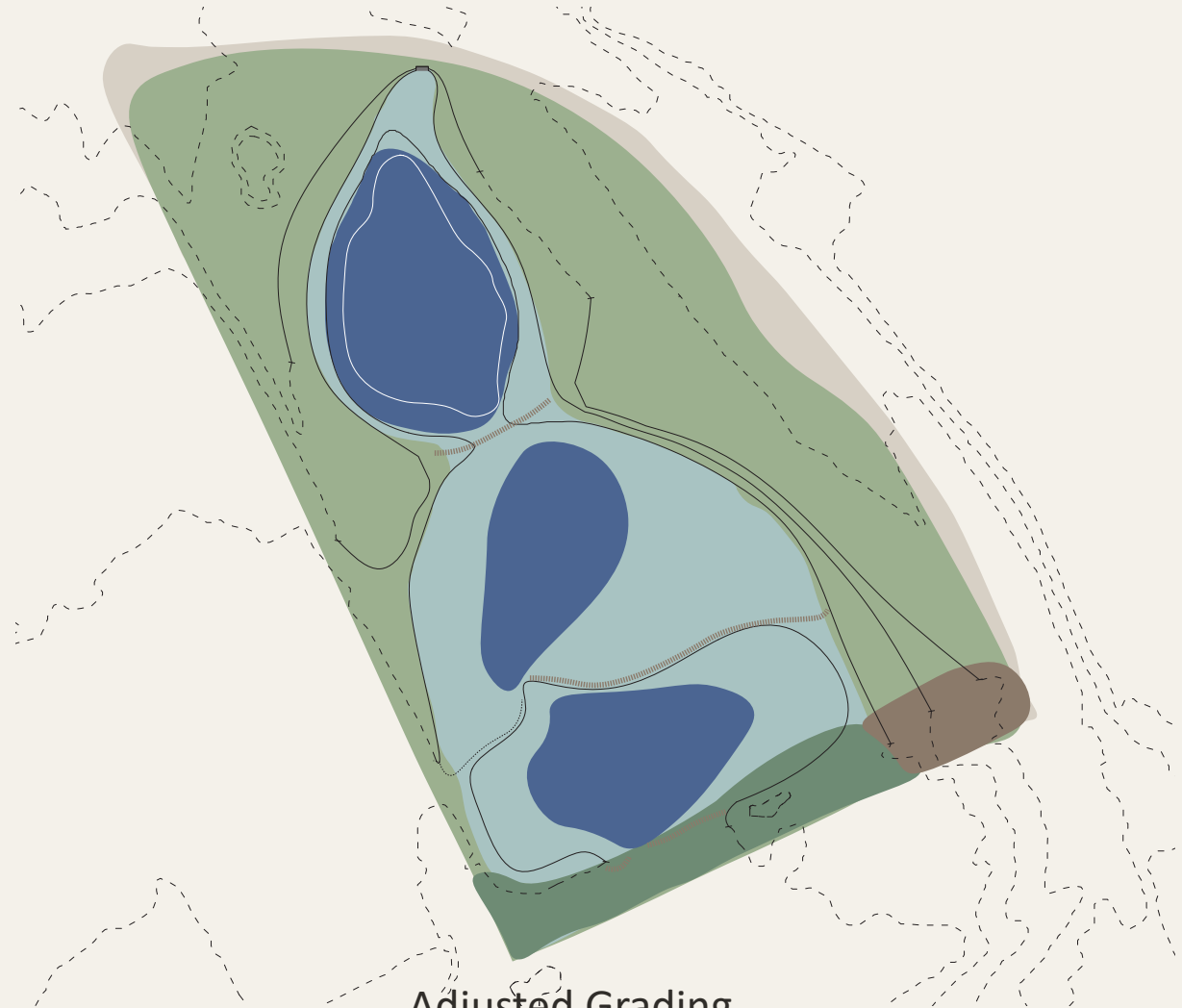
- Three cell System
- Concept with the most diverse spread of habitat
- Provides the best ecological function for the site based on the assumption that it was ecologically similar to the area to the south prior to urban development
 - Allows for free spread of water, increasing hydrological function and gives more space for water to settle
 - Works with instead of against the floodplain
- Designs with intent for water quality improvement



Adjusting for Slower Water

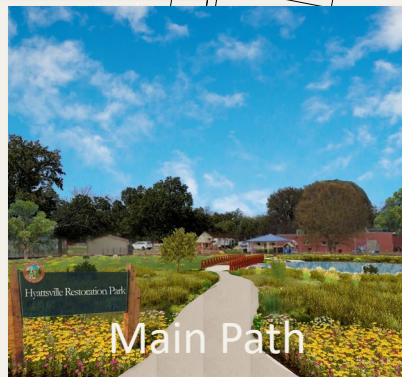


Concept Diagram



Adjusted Grading

Site Plan



(General, 2019)



Secondary
Path

Existing
Playground

Catchment
Pond



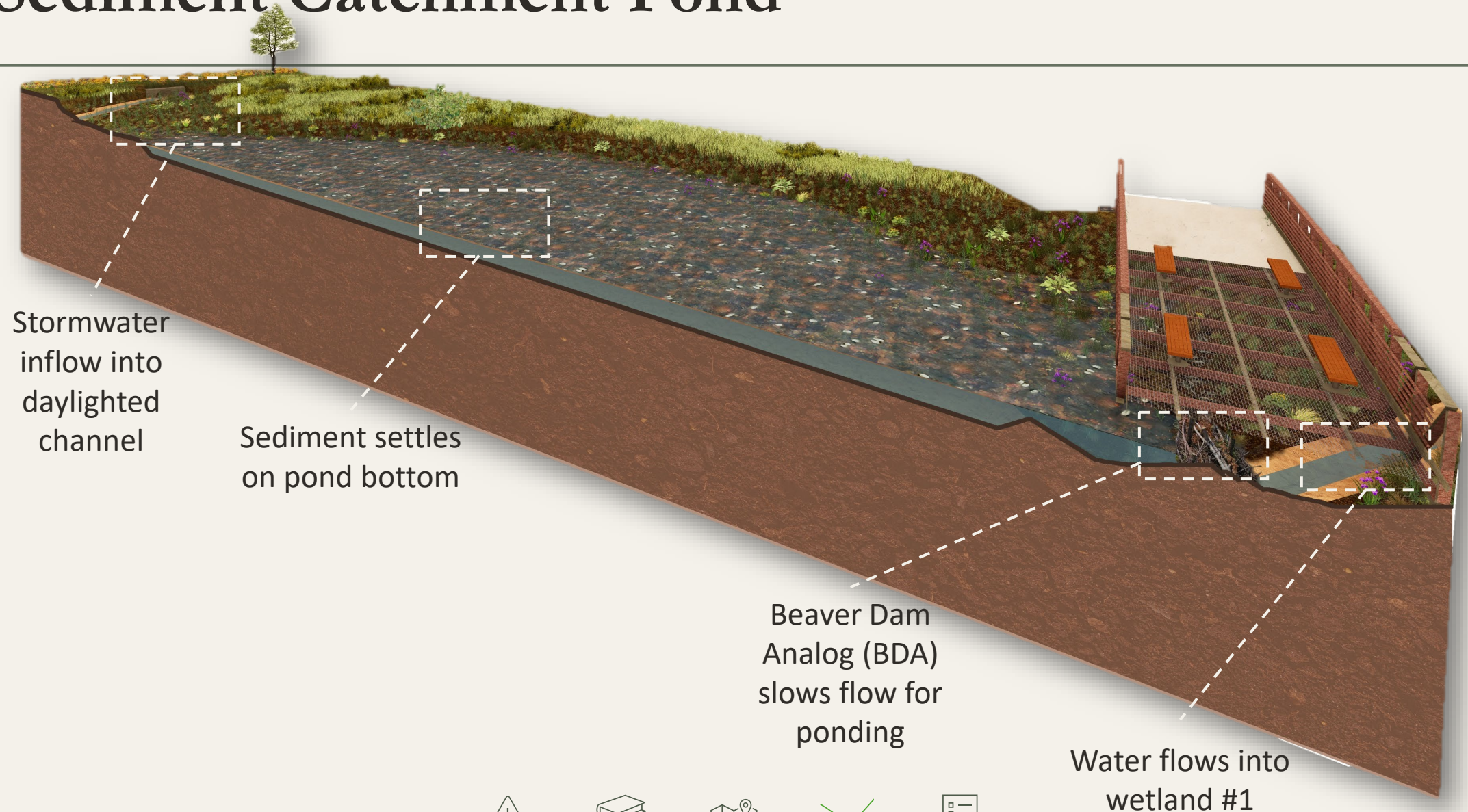
Hyattsville Restoration Park



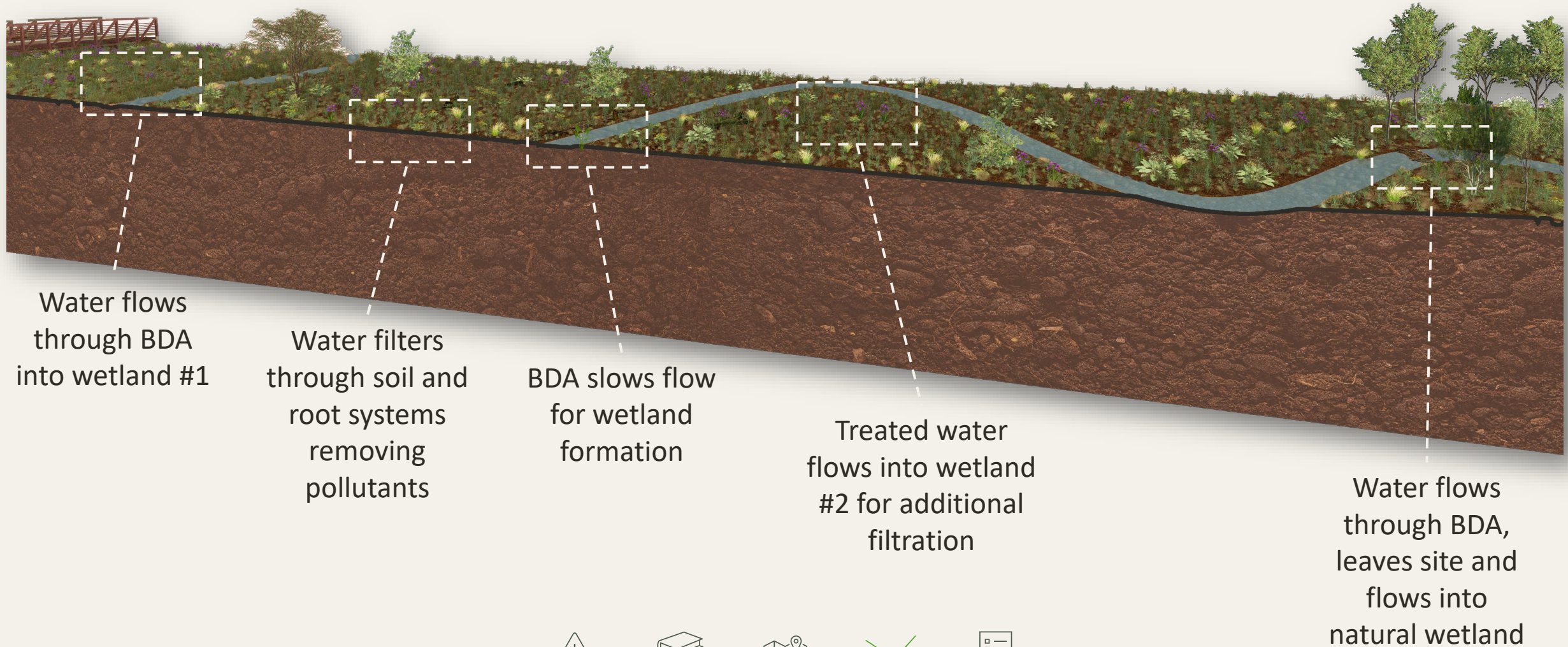
Educational
Signage

Grated
Bridge Deck

Sediment Catchment Pond



Wetland Treatment System



Ecological Zoning

Emergent Wetland and Pond Zone:

Areas consistently in shallow water or wet soil

Wet Meadow:

Areas that are periodically flooded and retain water

Upland Meadow:

Areas infrequently flooded

Wet Forest:

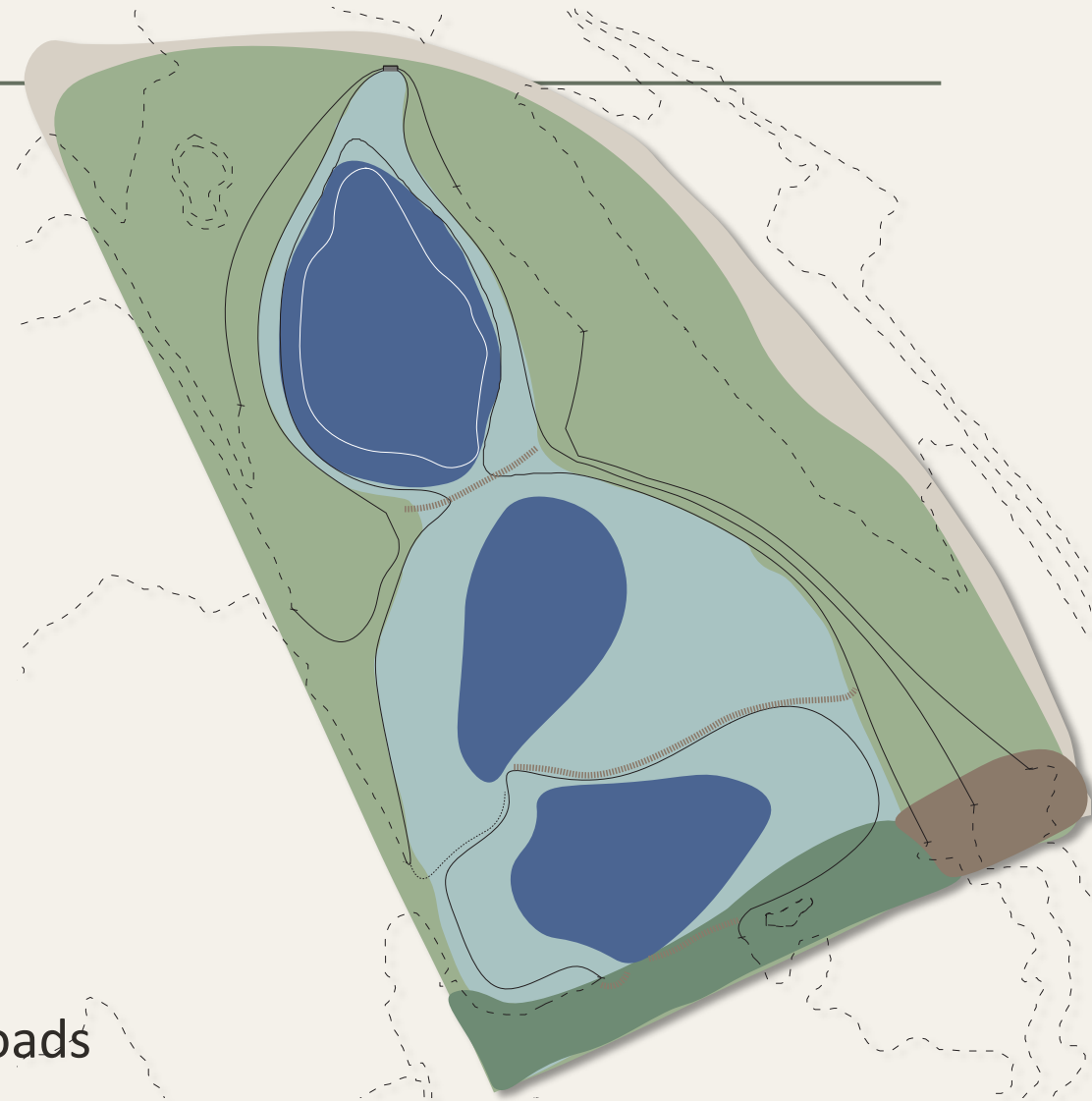
Periodically flooded woodland area

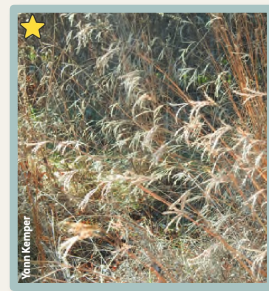
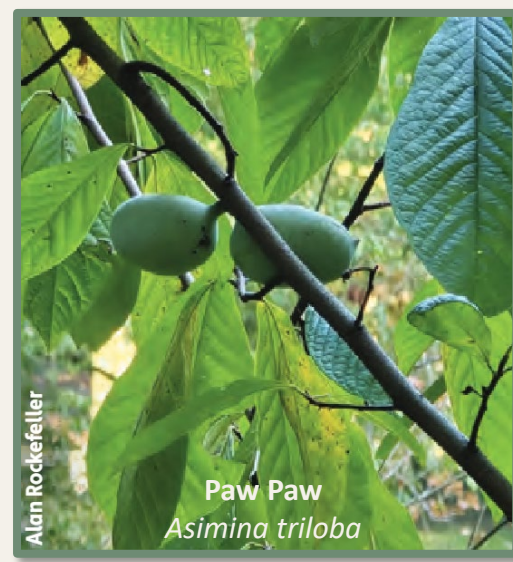
Upland Forest:

Infrequently flooded woodland areas

Streetscape:

Areas tolerant of the harsh conditions adjacent to roads





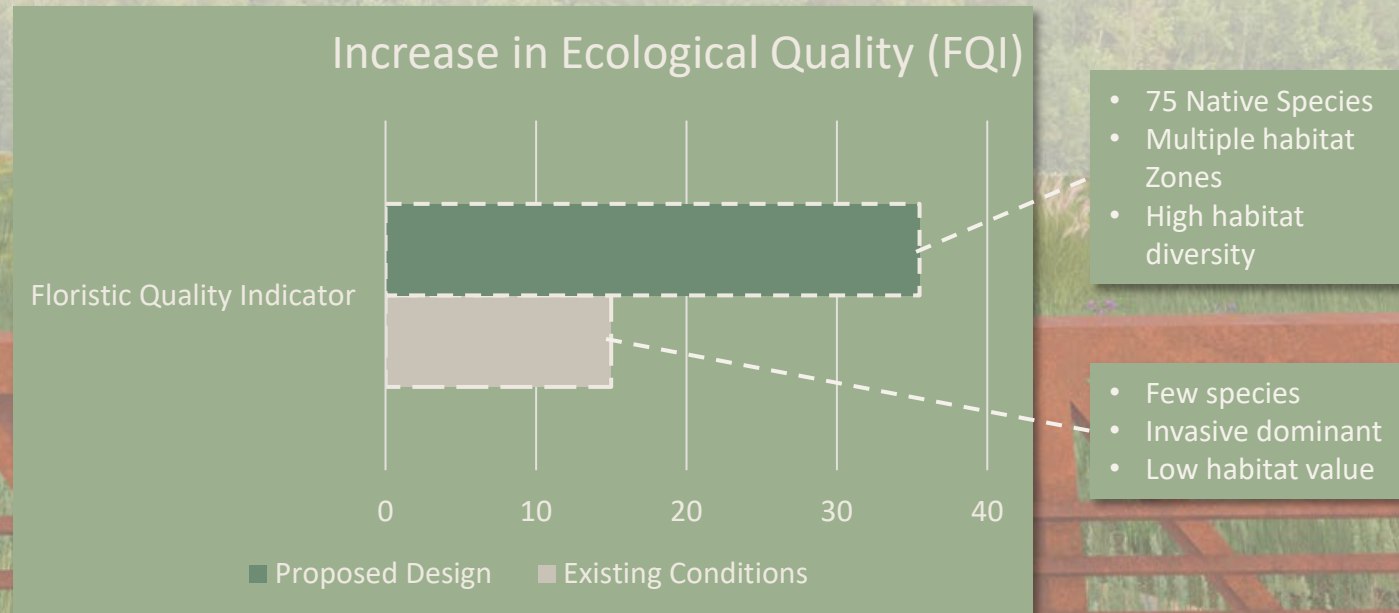
★ = Keystone Species

Design Evaluation



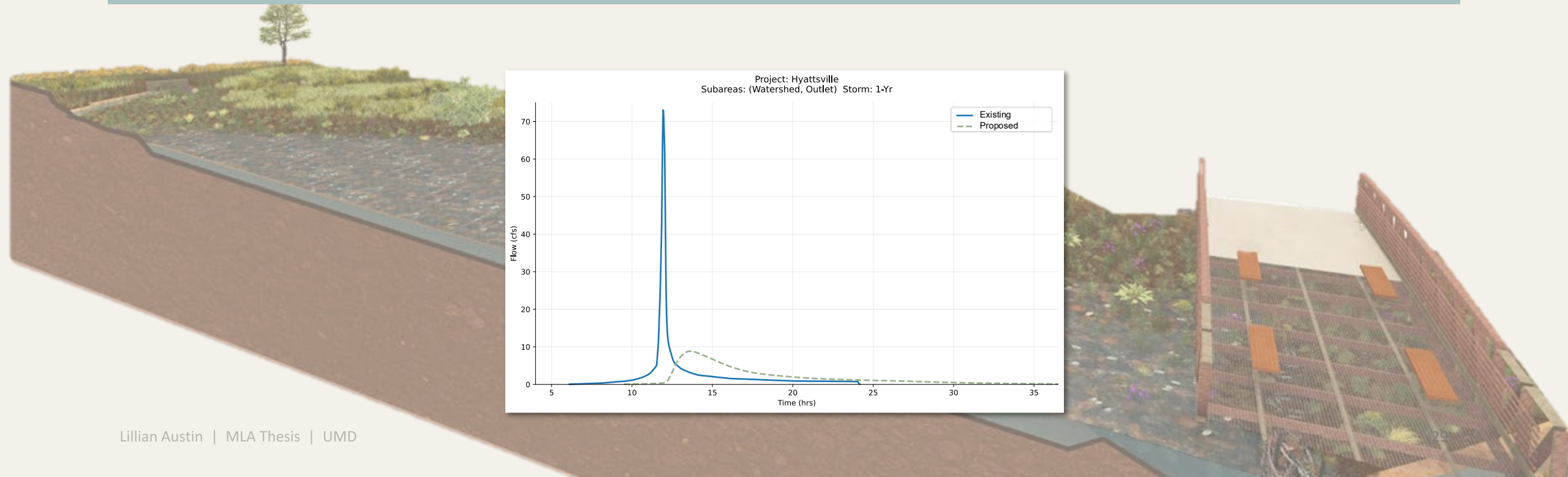
Criterion 1: Increasing Habitat and Biodiversity

The design should increase habitat and biodiversity by establishing multiple resilient native plant communities appropriate to site conditions that support native wildlife.



Criterion 2: Hydrologic and Ecological Function

The design should restore ecological and hydrological function by allowing water to slow, spread, and infiltrate the ground plane and interact with plant communities.



Criterion 3: Water Quality Improvement

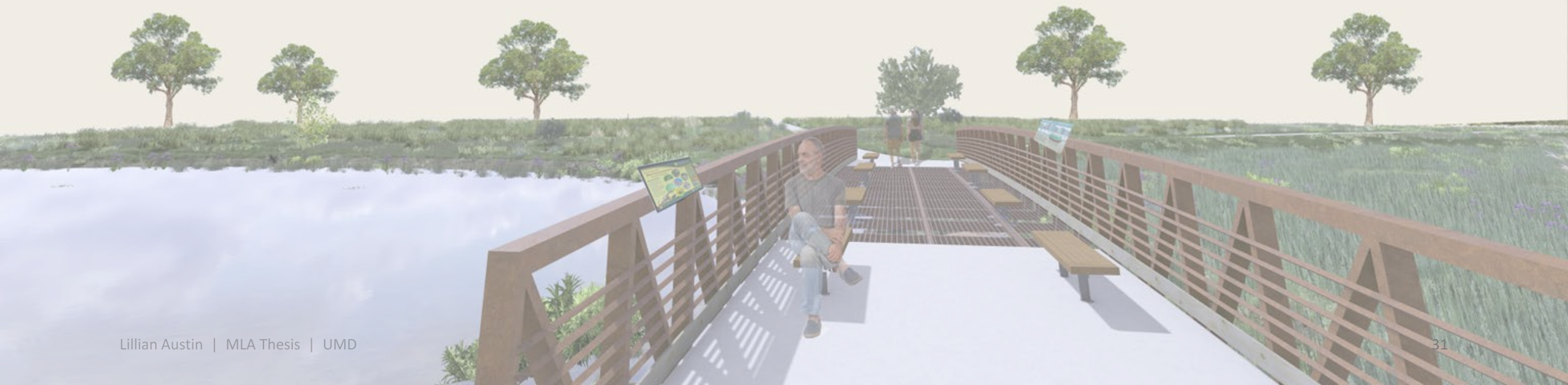
The design should reduce sediment and nutrient loads entering downstream wetlands through natural treatment processes such as sediment capture, vegetated filtration, and increased water residence time.

Structure	Acres	Inches	feet	Acre*Feet	Capacity	Percent Treatment
Cell 1	27.81	1.793	0.149416667	4.1552775	0.538	12.95
Cell 2	27.81	1.793	0.149416667	4.1552775	0.65	15.64
Cell 3	27.81	1.793	0.149416667	4.1552775	0.4	9.63
Design Total						38.22

Pollutant	Existing Load	Post-BMP Load	Reduction	Percent Reduction
Nitrogen (TN)	271.2 lb/yr	250.5 lb/yr	20.7 lb/yr	7.60%
Phosphorus (TP)	47.0 lb/yr	39.1 lb/yr	7.9 lb/yr	16.80%
BOD	1,014.5 lb/yr	770.1 lb/yr	244.4 lb/yr	24.10%
Sediment	6.5 ton/yr	4.6 ton/yr	1.9 ton/yr	29.60%

Criterion 4: Inspiring Stewardship

The design should foster public engagement and long-term stewardship by providing opportunities for people to experience, understand, and participate in the landscape while supporting feasible maintenance practices.



Conclusion

How can landscape architects restore ecological and hydrological functions in a disturbed urban floodplain to improve water quality, enhance biodiversity, and foster public stewardship?

- Landscape architects can restore ecological and hydrological function in a disturbed urban floodplain by designing landscapes that slow, spread, infiltrate, and treat stormwater through native plant communities while making these processes visible and accessible to the public.
- In doing so, floodplain landscapes can improve water quality, enhance biodiversity, and support long-term stewardship.

From: **Aisha Wilson**

Date: Tue, Sep 15, 2026 at 12:57 PM

Subject: Letters of Support – God's Best Family, Inc. | Agenda Item OSP 5 | DGS Item: 26-429

To: <email.bpw@maryland.gov>

Good afternoon,

On behalf of God's Best Family, Inc., please find attached letters of support for our capital grant agreement scheduled for consideration at the September 16, 2026, Board of Public Works meeting.

For reference, our item is listed as:

God's Best Family Early Childhood Education

Agenda Item: OSP 5

DGS Item: 26-429

We respectfully ask that the attached letters be shared with the Board members in advance of tomorrow's meeting and included as written comments in support of this item.

Please let me know if any additional information is needed. Thank you for your time and consideration.

--

V/r,

~Aisha

Marketing

God's Best Family, Inc.

☎ 410.493.6276 | Main Office: 410.921.5983

🔗 Link Tree: <https://linktr.ee/godsbestfamily>

🌐 www.GodsBestFamilyMD.com



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"Lucem Accepimus, Lucem Demus"

We have received light, let us give light.



12A: Letter of Support

From: **Marlisa Herbert**

September 15, 2026

To Whom It May Concern:

It is both an honor and a privilege to write this letter in wholehearted support of God's Best Family and its after-school and summer camp programs in Baltimore MD.

As a foster mother, I welcome girls into my home who are often facing difficult transitions. They may be adjusting to a new family, a new school, unfamiliar surroundings, and the challenge of forming new friendships. These young people need more than supervision. They need consistency, understanding, encouragement, and a safe community where they feel accepted.

God's Best Family became that community for my daughter last year. She transitioned into my home during the final week of seventh grade and then had to begin eighth grade at a new school, leaving behind her friends and everything familiar to her. By what felt like divine intervention, we discovered God's Best Family. From the very beginning, they welcomed her with open arms.

The organization gave my daughter a safe place to form new friendships, receive academic support, and participate in trips that expanded her cultural awareness and exposed her to new environments. Most importantly, the staff took a genuine interest in her goals, needs, and overall well-being. They supported her in what she wanted to accomplish and helped her believe that those accomplishments were possible.

God's Best Family also understands that truly supporting children includes holding them accountable. When a child struggles or misbehaves, the staff does not simply dismiss the behavior or react only in the moment. They take the time to sit with the child, identify what may be causing the behavior, and help the child work through it.

Their support continues through follow-up conversations, communication with parents, and check-ins regarding school and behavior at home. They consistently ask how they can best support each child, family, and the wider community.

Because of our positive experience with the after-school program and the amazing support with her IEP, I later enrolled my autistic daughter in the organization's summer camp. I was amazed by the staff's ability to meet her exactly where she was. She came home happy and excited to share her experiences each day. They taught her how to play the piano, helped strengthen her self-esteem, and intentionally included her in age-appropriate group activities so she could develop her social skills.

At the same time, they understood and respected the moments when she needed space and time alone. Instead of making assumptions, they asked how they could best support her during those moments. Their compassion, patience, and respect for her individual needs are things for which I will forever be grateful.

God's Best Family is more than an after-school or summer camp program. It is a place where children are seen, welcomed, guided, challenged, and loved. It strengthens not only the children it serves, but also their families and the entire community.

I fully support God's Best Family in its efforts to secure a permanent building and expand its services. This organization deserves the opportunity to grow, reach more families, and have its name and work recognized throughout the community. Although I hope this letter assists in that decision, the impact of their work truly speaks for itself.

I pray that God continues to bless the hands of those building this environment, the hearts of those who give to and support it, and the staff members who pour their time, energy, compassion, and love into these children. May God's Best Family continue to blossom and remain a source of safety, opportunity, and hope for generations to come.

With sincere gratitude and unwavering support,

Marlisa Herbert
Mother of 2 Children

Dear Members of the Board of Public Works:

My son, Kyzer, attended God's Best Family as a kindergartner during the summer. He was quiet, shy, and reserved. Now, as a second grader, I have watched him become more confident, independent, and outgoing. He really lets his personality shine, and I know part of that growth comes from the structure, support, and guidance he has received from God's Best Family.

Even as a parent, I benefit from God's Best Family. The center is like a home away from home for my son, and the hours of operation allow me to take care of important business, work, go to school, and even have some much-needed me time without having to worry about who is going to pick Kyzer up from school.

I support the bond-funded acquisition and project at 1121 Marshall Street because every child deserves a safe haven like GBF, and families deserve the support and peace of mind it provides.

I respectfully ask the Board of Public Works to support this project.

Sincerely,

Crystal Brewton



12A: God's Best Family Program letter

From: **Donnell Jenkins**

Date: Tue, Sep 15, 2026, 9:58 AM

Subject: God's Best Family Program letter

Board of Public Works State of Maryland Dear Members of the Board of Public Works, My name is Donnell Jenkins, and I am a 19-year-old young man who has been connected to God's Best Family (GBF) for many years. I first became involved with GBF through its after-school and sports programs, and I have also participated in their personal development activities. GBF has had a major impact on my life. Through their programs, I gained important life skills, built confidence, and learned how to handle challenges in school and everyday life. The staff at GBF always believed in me and stayed committed to helping me succeed. They supported me with my educational needs and encouraged me to keep working toward my goals. One reason I strongly support GBF is because they never gave up on me. When I faced difficulties in school, the staff continued to guide and motivate me. Their support helped me stay focused and graduate from high school. Honestly, without their help and encouragement, I am not sure that would have been possible. Because of the positive difference GBF has made in my life and in the lives of many other young people, I respectfully ask the Board of Public Works to support the bond-funded acquisition and project at 1121 Marshall Street. A permanent facility will allow GBF to continue providing opportunities, guidance, and support for youth and families in our community for years to come. Thank you for your time and consideration. Sincerely, Donnell Jenkins Former GBF Youth Participant

Cayden Gross

132 W Hamburg St.
Baltimore MD. 21230
(667)256-2823

14th September 2026

Dear Members of the Board of Public Works,

My name is Cayden Gross, and I am writing in support of God's Best Family and its project at 1121 Marshall Street.

I first became part of God's Best Family at around 10 or 11 years old attending summer camp. I remember the different projects and activities and just having the best summers. I thrived so much in this environment. Gained so much confidence and independence in my experience that as I got older, I was given the opportunity to become a peer mentor, assisting younger children with homework, games, and other activities. This experience provided me with essential social and leadership skills. Then later becoming a member of the staff,

God's Best Family has been more than just a program for me; it has been a place where I could learn valuable life skills and receive opportunities that helped shape me into the person I am today.

Securing a permanent home at 1121 Marshall Street would give God's Best Family the opportunity to expand and help even more young people like me. There are children in our community who need a safe place, creative freedom, positive adult role models, people who believe in them, and opportunities that aren't often available to everyone.

I know what God's Best Family can do for the community because I experienced it firsthand.

I respectfully ask you to support God's Best Family in this journey and approve its bond-funded project at 1121 Marshall Street, so that more young people can have the same chance to grow and build a strong sense of community.

Thank you for taking the time to hear my story.

Sincerely,

Cayden Gross

Former Summer Camp Participant

Peer Mentor & Summer Camp Staff



September 15, 2026

Maryland Board of Public Works
Louis L. Goldstein Treasury Building
80 Calvert Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Letter of Support – God's Best Family Capital Grant and Acquisition of 1121 Marshall Street

To the Members of the Board of Public Works:

Federal Hill Main Street is pleased to support approval of the capital grant agreement enabling God's Best Family (GBF) to acquire 1121 Marshall Street and establish a permanent community center in South Baltimore.

GBF is a trusted and active presence in South Baltimore, known for its steady commitment to local children and families through youth programming, family support, community events, and neighborhood-based services. For years, GBF has done this work from temporary spaces. A permanent home would give the organization the stability to expand its programming and deepen its impact for the families who rely on it.

A dedicated community center at 1121 Marshall Street would be a significant asset to South Baltimore, and we fully support the Board's approval of this grant.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Meg Murray'.

Meg Murray
Board President
Federal Hill Main Street

September 13, 2026

Dear Members of the Baltimore Board of Public Works,

I am writing in strong support of Turell Brooks and his organization, God's Best Family, and the important work they have been doing in South Baltimore and the surrounding communities.

I have had the privilege of being a longtime friend of Turell and have personally witnessed his commitment to serving the community he grew up in. Turell is someone who has felt a genuine calling to give back to his neighborhood of Sharp-Leadenhall and to make a positive difference in the lives of the families and children who live there.

God's Best Family is led by an incredible group of men and women who have lived, worked, and served in South Baltimore for many years. Their connection to the community is not simply through an organization—they are members of the community themselves. They understand its challenges, know its families, and, most importantly, are deeply invested in seeing its children succeed.

I have personally had the opportunity to serve alongside Turell and his team, including our efforts starting Neighbors Meeting Neighbors to bring reconciliation to Otterbein and Sharp Leadenhall communities through cleaning up Solo Gibbs Park. I have also seen firsthand the tremendous effort they have put into building their after-school and summer programs for local children. These programs provide kids with positive activities, caring adults, mentorship, structure, and a safe place to spend their time.

As a resident of South Baltimore for more than 15 years, I have had the opportunity to watch our community change and grow. I have also seen the impact that organizations like God's Best Family can have when they are rooted in the neighborhood and committed to the people who live there.

Their impact is especially meaningful to me because my own children attended Federal Hill Prep, where I was able to see firsthand the difference that positive community programs, mentors, and supportive adults can make in a child's life. The work Turell and his team are doing reaches beyond simply providing a program. They are building relationships with children and families and creating opportunities for young people to feel supported, encouraged, and connected to their community.

Turell's commitment is not something that exists only on paper. He shows up. He works alongside the residents. He invests his time and energy into improving the neighborhood and creating better opportunities for its children. His organization has demonstrated that it is willing to put in the hard work necessary to make a lasting difference.

Providing this capital grant would allow God's Best Family to build upon the tremendous impact they are already having in the community. Additional space would enable them to serve more students and adults, expand their programming, and provide an even greater number of community members with a safe, supportive environment where they can learn, grow, and be

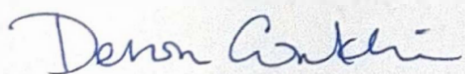
cared for. This investment would not simply support a building or a physical space—it would create an opportunity for God's Best Family to expand the relationships, programs, mentorship, and services that are already making a meaningful difference in the lives of South Baltimore residents.

I believe Baltimore benefits greatly when individuals who have deep roots in a community step forward to serve it. Turell Brooks and God's Best Family represent exactly that kind of community leadership. Their work in Sharp-Leadenhall, South Baltimore, and the surrounding neighborhoods deserves to be recognized and supported.

I respectfully ask the Board of Public Works to consider the positive impact of Turell Brooks and God's Best Family and the value their continued work brings to our community. I strongly believe that providing this capital grant would be an investment in the future of South Baltimore—particularly its children, families, and the adults who call this community home. It would give an already successful and deeply committed organization the ability to reach even more people and further the tremendous work they have already begun.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I would be happy to speak further about my personal experiences with Turell and God's Best Family and the impact I have witnessed in our community.

Sincerely,



Devon Conklin
Neighbors Meeting Neighbors Co-founder and Baltimore City resident
410-917-6777

September 15, 2026

The Honorable Wes Moore
Governor of Maryland

The Honorable Brooke Lierman
Comptroller of Maryland

The Honorable Dereck Davis
Treasurer of Maryland

Subject: Supplemental Comments from Environmental Nonprofits

Please Approve the City of Hyattsville's Request for a Green Space Equity Grant
to Purchase Land Adjacent to Driskell Park

Dear Governor Moore, Comptroller Lierman, and Treasurer Davis,

We, the undersigned nonprofit organizations, write to express our strong support for the City of Hyattsville's application for a \$3.5 million Green Space Equity grant to purchase land that lies adjacent to the City's David C. Driskell Park. We urge you to approve the full grant amount requested by the City and recommended by the Department of Natural Resources. This grant is essential to long-standing goals of seeing the City acquire that land, add it to Driskell Park, and restore it ecologically. Several of our organizations have worked since at least 2019 – through Prince George's County's land use review process and the State's permitting processes – to help realize those important goals.

The land the City seeks to purchase is located within a few hundred yards of the Anacostia River's Northwest Branch and is adjacent to a nontidal wetland (the Trumbule Trail Bog), a forested stream valley tributary to the Northwest Branch, and the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commissions' Magruder Woods Park. Based on FEMA floodplain maps and others, most or all of the land the City seeks to purchase lies within the 100-year floodplain of the Northwest Branch.

Located in the midst of a socially and economically diverse community, Driskell Park is the City's largest and busiest park. It is within walking and biking distance of perhaps thousands of residences, including many apartments, and it serves as a treasured gathering place where local residents can rest, relax, socialize, recreate, and enjoy and learn about the area's human history and natural resources.

Purchasing the parcel by the park, restoring it, and making it available for public use and enjoyment would enhance local climate resilience, support stream health, expand local habitat for native biodiversity, and create a welcoming green space for local residents. (For one example of what such a restoration might look like, please see the attached presentation prepared by a

master's student in the University of Maryland's School of Landscape Architecture as the focus of her master's thesis.)

Permanently protecting land along a major Anacostia tributary can help maintain and restore natural floodplain functions, reduce pressure for future development in a high-risk area, and create opportunities for wetland protection, riparian buffering, native plant restoration, and improved habitat connectivity. Attaining those goals by preserving and restoring land, especially land in floodplains and so close to streams and wetlands, is even more urgent in face of increasing weather extremes driven by global warming.

In an urban watershed where impervious surfaces contribute significantly to polluted runoff, land conservation is itself a critical stormwater strategy, especially when coupled with ecological restoration. Protected open space can absorb and slow rainfall, enhance stream base flows, reduce erosive flows, filter pollutants, and limit the movement of nutrients, sediment, trash, metals, and other toxics into local waterways.

This project would also directly support Maryland's broader commitments to protect and restore the Anacostia and Chesapeake watersheds by reducing a range of stressors, including trash, toxic pollutants, nutrients, and sediment loads. This is especially important given that the Maryland Department of the Environment lists the Anacostia and the Northwest Branch as impaired waters under the Clean Water Act.

The Bay Restoration framework depends on reducing both point and nonpoint sources, and urban stormwater remains one of the most persistent and costly sources to control. By preserving land so close to a major Anacostia tributary and by enabling nature-based stormwater and flood-mitigation practices, the proposed grant would help prevent additional pollutant loads while supporting the long-term recovery of a historically burdened Chesapeake tributary.

This investment can help the local jurisdiction meet regulatory and planning obligations related to stormwater management, flood resilience, climate adaptation, and water-quality protection. Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System permit requirements, including impervious surface restoration and related MS4 programs increasingly depend on durable, distributed green infrastructure and wetland practices that reduce runoff volume, treat stormwater close to its source, and protect receiving waters. Preserved and enhanced green space along an Anacostia tributary can complement engineered infrastructure while providing lasting, cost-effective ecological services.

In closing, this grant would provide myriad environmental benefits, improve the quality of life for the local community by facilitating the creation of a local sanctuary for people, plants and wildlife, and bring some measure of relief to a community that has spent years working to protect this land.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Greg Smith
Board Member
Sustainable Hyattsville

Trey Sherard
Anacostia Riverkeeper

Abel Olivo
Executive Director
Defensores de la Cuenca

Melissa Schweisguth
Vice-President
Neighbors of the Northwest Branch

Allison Kole
Board Member
Sustainable Hyattsville

Nicole Jackson, Chair
Sierra Club, Prince Georges' County Group

Gyasi Gomez, Vice Chair
Sierra Club, Prince Georges' County Group