



Project: CSO Year 1 Green Infrastructure

Subject: Year 1 Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Control Project
Public Information Meeting

Date / Time: Thursday, July 29, 2021 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Location: Lincoln School Library, 700 Mary Street

Attendees:

Andrea Klopfenstein	City of Peoria	City Engineer
Alexandrea Williams	City of Peoria	Communications Specialist
Greg Myroth	Symbiont	CSO Program Manager
Kyla Dean	Symbiont	CSO Project Engineer
Bryce Beckstrom	Hanson	CSO Year 1 Design Engineer
Cindy Loos	Hanson	Transportation Program Manager
Community Members	see attached sign in sheet	

The purpose of this meeting was to inform the community about the Year 1 combined sewer overflow control project and receive public input regarding the Year 1 project. The meeting began with project team introductions and short video describing how combined sewers work. The project team presented information on Peoria's CSO background, project goals, project location, soil infiltration testing, CSO program modeling, and draft green infrastructure layout. The PowerPoint slides from the presentation are attached. The below questions and comments from the public were addressed as they came up during the presentation.

Attendee Comments / Questions:

1. This community has experienced a lack of engagement from the City, including numerous emails and phone calls submitted to Public Works without receiving a response. How can we have confidence that we will be informed and that our input matters?

Response: The City will investigate the issue of no response to emails and phone calls. The team leading the City's Combined Sewer Overflow Program will be responsive. We provided business cards with individual email addresses and phone numbers.

2. Suggest including input from local homeowners at the beginning of the project.

Response: Yes, agree that early community engagement is beneficial.

3. Has any consideration for carbon capture or climate change been given to the project design?

Response: No, this was not specifically considered as part of this project. However, the project does include trees and plantings which helps reduce carbon dioxide through carbon sequestration.

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4. Who is on the CSO control design team? Does the team include the Park District, arborists, or residents?

Response: The CSO control design team is comprised of technical staff with specialized engineering expertise from a variety of professional services firms. Other departments and specialists will be engaged as necessary. Residents are engaged through public information meetings.

5. It would be very helpful if there was a CSO project website.

Response: Yes, we agree and have a draft website developed. The website is going through City review and is anticipated to be live within the next few months.

6. There may be some interest to salvage bricks that are uncovered and removed as part of the project.

Response: It is cost prohibitive to salvage bricks due to effort needed to collect, transport, clean, palletize and store bricks. If residents desire to salvage bricks, it is recommended that they speak directly to the contractors performing the work.

7. How many of the projects will be green versus gray?

Response: Green infrastructure is cost-effective where the native soils can infiltrate stormwater effectively. In Peoria, good infiltrating, sandy soils are located below the bluff. But, as the recently conducted soil borings and infiltration tests indicated, not all areas below the bluff have sandy soils supportive of cost-effective green infrastructure.

The Consent Decree allows the City flexibility between green and gray infrastructure. The current mix of projects to meet the Consent Decree requirements is about 60% green and 40% gray. The gray portion of the City's projects is anticipated to be storage typically located near the existing outfalls and near the river.

8. Is permeable pavement considered green or gray?

Response: Permeable pavement is green infrastructure. Gray infrastructure consists of projects such as in-system storage, storage tanks, and regulator improvements.

9. Will projects be constructed on private property?

Response: Projects are planned to be located on City right-of-way. In future years, the City will evaluate opportunities to construct projects on City owned parcels and private / public partnerships. During Consent Decree negotiations, the U.S. EPA expressed concerns about maintenance for green infrastructure on private property and the Illinois EPA loan the City is proposing to use for the project will not provide funding for improvements on private property.

10. What was the target infiltration rate?

Response: The target infiltration rate was 4 inches per hour. This was the assumed rate below the bluff used for high-level planning. Some infiltration tests showed results around 4 inches per hour, although some were higher and others much lower.

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11. Was climate change accounted for in the modeling and project sizing?

Response: The model was calibrated and validated using rainfall and flow data from Peoria, including some of the more intense events that have occurred recently. The projects are sized to meet the levels of control specified in the Consent Decree.

12. Will there still be CSOs after all the projects are constructed? How big of a storm event will be controlled?

Response: CSO control projects will reduce the number of combined sewer overflows but will not eliminate overflows. The projects are design based on the criteria specified in the Consent Decree. This includes no overflows for the design storm, which has 1.53 inches of rainfall over six hours, and only one overflow for Peoria's typical year, defined as 1949 based on a statistical analysis of historical rainfall records.

13. We want to see the Consent Decree. Can you email this to us?

Response: We have hard copies of the Consent Decree with us that you can look through tonight. An electronic version of the Consent Decree is available on the City's website. Use the search bar on the homepage to search "Consent Decree."

14. A patchwork of new sidewalks and permeable pavement strips is not appealing. Block long placement of permeable pavement on one side of the street is preferable to placement on both sides that runs from intersection to midblock or alley. Aesthetics are very important.

Response: We understand that aesthetics are important. Because the roads are crowned, green infrastructure is needed on both sides of the street to capture the stormwater flow. The size and location of green infrastructure is based on the design flows and modeling. The basic layout to control the design storm was more patchwork, with different lengths of permeable pavement on each side of the street. To make it more uniform, we added green infrastructure to make it even on both sides of the street and extended to end at midblock or intersections where it was reasonable to do so. We will look at additional options to add uniformity and improve aesthetics, such as using narrower, longer permeable paver strips running the full length of the block instead of wider, shorter sections.

The Year 1 project is planned to be funded using a low interest loan from the Illinois EPA. This funding can only be used for the CSO control aspects of the project. The loan will not fund non-CSO related curb and gutter, sidewalks, and other improvements. The City has been and will continue to look for other funding sources to include non-CSO components such as sidewalks and other enhancements.

15. Is this neighborhood being treated with equality? Would the proposed solutions for the Year 1 project area be presented at the north end of town?

Response: Yes, distributed green infrastructure is the most cost-effective approach. The same concept is proposed throughout the program. Additional funding sources will be considered to incorporate other enhancements.

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16. Project should be considered with an equity lens, not equality.

Response: We will continue to look for funding to incorporate co-benefits into the Year 1 project.

17. Residents want to be involved in the design process and the Consent Decree requires public involvement.

Response: We understand and intend to keep the public involved and our actions to date demonstrate those intentions. This is the second meeting we have held this year. We are ahead of the Consent Decree requirements, holding these public meetings before the Public Participation Plan is due on August 31, 2022.

18. One resident said they would prefer piecemeal bumpout planters instead of piecemeal permeable pavers. Another resident stated that they wouldn't want a lot more bumpout planters because they may impact the amount of street parking available and not all residents have alley parking.

Response: We will continue to evaluate the locations of the projects, looking for opportunities to add more uniformity as well as additional bumpout planters at locations where it will not significantly impact street parking.

19. Have you considered historic sites that could be impacted by the project?

Response: Yes, an environmental impacts review was completed as part of the planning process for the Illinois EPA state revolving fund loan program. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) and the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) reviewed the project and provided letters stating that there are no anticipated adverse impacts.

20. Front load community engagement in the design process, seeking input from the public early and often.

Response: Yes, we agree and intend to.

21. The door hangers put in the neighborhood for this meeting were helpful. When sending out information in emails, use .jpg files instead of .pdf files to make it easier to post on Facebook, Nextdoor, or similar sites.

Response: Yes, we will. Future handouts and announcements will also include QR codes that link to the City's CSO website where the community can go to learn more about the CSO program.

22. How was the Year 1 area defined and when will the adjacent area, towards Spring Street, be completed?

Response: The Year 1 area was delineated based on the area where stormwater flow goes to the trunk sewer on Caroline Street. The stormwater drainage area that goes to the trunk sewer on Spring Street will be completed during a future year of the CSO Control program. This area is tentatively planned for Year 5 but, as discussed, the City's plan is flexible and will be adapted based on capital funding programs and

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community needs. As an example, we recently applied for a \$5M grant for reconstruction of Spring Street. If we are successful in obtaining that grant, the Spring Street area could be moved sooner in the program. This flexibility is one of the benefits of the City's Consent Decree.