



Government of the District of Columbia
ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 3/4G

Chevy Chase, Barnaby Woods, Hawthorne

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COMMISSIONERS

3/4G-01 - Lisa R. Gore, Chair 3/4G-02 - Bruce Sherman
3/4G-03 - James Nash, Secretary 3/4G-04 - Michael Zeldin 3/4G-05 - Peter Lynch
3/4G-06 - Peter Gosselin, Vice Chair 3/4G-07 - Zachary Ferguson, Treasurer

ANC 3/4G Resolution
Concerning the
District's Broad Branch Stormwater Retrofit Project
November 13, 2023

BACKGROUND & RATIONALE:

- 1) ANC 3/4G strongly supports the goals of improving water quality in tributary watersheds to Rock Creek and the Potomac River, greening the District's streets and calming traffic on its roadways.
- 2) The Commission strongly supports the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) pursuing these goals through use of cost-effective stormwater green infrastructure as proposed in its Broad Branch Stormwater Retrofit Project.
- 3) As part of its support, the Commission has sought to keep abreast of DC plans for green infrastructure in Chevy Chase and to seek improvements by, inter alia:
 - Holding hearings with municipal officials, such as those on June 13, 2022 and Dec. 12, 2022, to discuss particular sites in the community;
 - Regularly expressing concern about DC's inadequate maintenance of local bioretention basins and pervious pavement locations;

- Launching a pilot partnership in conjunction with DC’s Department of Energy and the Environment (DOEE) and its maintenance contractors, the Rock Creek Conservancy and Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, to help clean up, replant, and maintain local bioretention basins that so far has included an October 27, 2023 neighborhood cleanup.
- 4) Given ANC 3/4G’s sustained interest in and strong support for green infrastructure and the Broad Branch retrofit project, the Commission was surprised by a September 7, 2023 series of emailed Notices of Intent from Eric Schwartz, a DDOT civil engineer, to our chair, Lisa R Gore.
 - 5) The notices – NOI-23-08-IPMA, NOI-23-09-IPMA, NOI-23-10-IPMA, NOI-23-11-IPMA, NOI-23-12-IPMA, and NOI-23-13-IPMA – were the first time the ANC was informed that DDOT intends take more than 100 parking spaces and almost three-quarters of a mile of street curb at 60 locations across six of the Commission’s seven single member districts in the community to locate bioretention basins.
 - 6) In talking with residents in the wake of the DDOT notices, the Commission has found a variety of cases of questionable judgment on the Department’s part about location, size and rationale for basins. Among them:
 - A proposed basin in the 5300 block of 28th Street NW would entirely eliminate street frontage for one residence, raising questions about how emergency vehicles and delivery trucks, among others, would reach the home. The basin also would so narrow the street that it is likely to slow emergency-vehicle response time and make it difficult for opposing vehicle and bicycle traffic to operate. All ~~[[XX]]~~ residents on the block have signed a petition asking that the basin not be built.
 - DDOT officials at a September 28th public hearing said the 5400 block of Chevy Chase Parkway between Military Road and Legation Street NW could afford to lose five parking spaces to a basin because abutting homes have off-street parking, overlooking the fact that the overwhelming majority of those parking on the block are from nearby apartment buildings. At least three neighbors have written to the Department asking that the basin be relocated.
 - DDOT does not appear to be any closer to solving the problem of maintaining existing bioretention basins and has made no clear commitment to maintaining the proposed new ones. The failure has led our sister ANC, 3D, to oppose the companion Spring Valley Stormwater Retrofit Project.
 - 7) This Commission does not want to take a similar step and oppose the Broad Branch project outright. It makes the following suggestions in hopes of helping to steer the project back on track and reviving local support for new bio-retention basins and other green infrastructure measures.

RESOLVED that ANC 3/4G:

- 8) Ask DDOT to reopen the comment period, now closed, for the Broad Branch Stormwater Retrofit Project and resume receiving public input through **[[February 1, 2024.]]**
- 9) Ask DDOT project managers to appear before the ANC in one or more public hearings to the **[[February]]** date to discuss the size, location and goals of proposed bioretention basins in the community and hear residents' complaints.
- 10) Ask DDOT to investigate particular proposed sites pointed to by the Commission – such as those in the 5300 block of 28th Street NW and the 5400 block of Chevy Chase Parkway NW -- and others that may come to light with an eye to reducing their size, adjusting their location and in some cases eliminating facilities.
- 11) In the case of particular basins, ask DDOT to provide its traffic-calming goals and explain how affected sections of roadway can continue to fulfill the transportation needs of immediate areas.
- 12) Ask that DDOT and other relevant municipal agencies such as DOEE and the Urban Forestry Division to make a firm, long-term commitment to maintaining existing and proposed bioretention basins and other green infrastructure and explain how the effort will be funded.
- 13) Ask DDOT to join ANC 3/4G, DOEE, the Rock Creek Conservancy and Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay and the Chevy Chase community in a partnership to supplement, but not supplant, District maintenance of local bioretention basins.

APPROVED at a regular public meeting, notice of which was properly given and at which a quorum of four (4) or seven (7) members was present on November 13, 2023 by a vote of **X** yes, **X** no, **X** abstentions.

Lisa R Gore, Chair

James L. Nash, Secretary