

## General Project Questions

### **How long will it take to construct the rain garden?**

Green infrastructure construction for a neighborhood can also include work such as storm sewer improvements/extensions, waterline upgrades, curb work, etc. Total construction time in a neighborhood is generally 18-24 months, though that does not mean you will be directly impacted by that work during the entire duration.

### **Why are there different types of rain gardens, and can I have a choice of which design I would prefer in front of my home?**

Residents cannot select a certain design, though we encourage you to provide us with feedback about your preference on aesthetic elements. We will use that input during the design process. Rain garden designs are determined based on several factors such as:

- The presence or absence of sidewalks and/or curbs.
- The width of the street.
- Availability of space within the right-of-way.
- Neighborhood characteristics.

### **Can I opt out of getting a rain garden?**

In general, no. However, we welcome resident feedback and are willing to review specific sites to explore all available options.

Each green infrastructure location is strategically chosen by the design engineers based on several factors. Before construction takes place, the design engineers survey and collect data to select appropriate rain garden locations. A survey crew comes out to the area and marks barriers such as underground utilities, tree locations, and points of interest on the street where water tends to collect. If there are specific concerns about the future installation of a rain garden, please contact our Blueprint Outreach Team to discuss further.

### **Is there anything I need to do as a homeowner in preparation for green infrastructure work?**

All green infrastructure work is done on City-owned property, and we do not need access to your home or private property. However, any private items that are in the public right-of-way are subject to removal by the construction workers depending on the required work at your parcel. The safest option is to remove any items that are in the right-of-way, which includes irrigation systems, dog fences, lighting, etc.

You will receive notifications in advance from the contractors before work in front of your home begins. Please feel free to contact the Blueprint Outreach Team to discuss if and how your area will be impacted in more detail.

### **I have a fence in my front yard. How will this be impacted during construction?**

Any private items that are in the public right-of-way are subject to removal by the construction workers depending on the required work at this parcel and may not be replaced. The safest option is to remove any items that are in the right-of-way and that includes irrigation systems, dog fences, lighting, etc.

**Questions? Find out more information:**

[Columbus.gov/blueprint](https://columbus.gov/blueprint) | [blueprint@columbus.gov](mailto:blueprint@columbus.gov) | 614-645-1253

## **When it is time for the lateral lining and downspout redirection, do I need to sign up, and if so, when and where do I do this?**

No, you do not need to sign up for these phases of the project. When your project area begins this phase, we will notify all residents in your area. Each house is done on a case-by-case basis, and the resident will be a part of the inspection period to review what work needs to be done, if any.

## **How do I apply for a sump pump?**

If you are interested in having a sump pump installed in your home, there are three ways to sign up. You can visit our website at [www.blueprintneighborhoods.com/sumppum](http://www.blueprintneighborhoods.com/sumppum), email us at [blueprint@columbus.gov](mailto:blueprint@columbus.gov), or call our Outreach Team at 614-645-1253 and select the sump pump hotline. Once you have provided your contact information and address, you will be sent a letter confirming that you have been placed on the waiting list. Our sump pump installation contractor will contact residents in the order they signed up to schedule an inspection to determine if it is feasible to install a sump pump. Each sump pump comes with a battery pack in the case of a power outage, as well as a one-year warranty by the contractor. Sump pump installations and inspections occur at no cost to homeowners.

## **I'm in a Blueprint area, but there are no markings on the Blueprint map in my area indicating the location of rain gardens or other green infrastructure. Why is this?**

Rain gardens and other green infrastructure locations are posted on the online map once the design team has narrowed down preferred site locations. If you do not currently see any green infrastructure locations, it is because the design process is still in its early stages or has not yet begun in your area. Residents will receive notice of a public comment period prior to final location selection, so you will have an opportunity to review any proposed plans.

## **Who owns the right-of-way where the rain gardens are located?**

The City owns the property in the right-of-way out right. The City does not hold an easement on the property, and it is not owned by residents.

## **Why will the rain gardens not breed mosquitos?**

The rain gardens have been designed to drain within 48 hours, and mosquitos typically need 72 hours or more to hatch. Based on research (Hunt et al. 2006; Metzger et al. 2011; Yadav et al. 2012), the chances of mosquitoes successfully reproducing and completing their life cycle in a bioretention cell (rain garden) is extremely small. Their life cycle typically takes two weeks, but varies from 4 days to one month depending on species (USEPA, <https://www.epa.gov/mosquitocontrol/mosquito-life-cycle>). During this time, the eggs need to remain moist. The surface of a bioretention cell typically only ponds water for 12 hours following a rainfall event (48 hours maximum). After that, the underdrains reduce soil moisture below ranges needed for mosquito eggs to hatch.

## **Active Construction**

### **Will I lose access to my home or driveway during construction?**

During construction, there will be times you may have access restricted to your driveway due to the extent of the work taking place. In some cases, we will have to excavate through the driveway apron to install new piping and repave/repair the apron. If this is to take place, the construction crew will provide you with a notice beforehand, so you can make arrangements regarding parking.

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## **Will there be a loss of parking on my street due to the rain gardens and bump outs?**

On some streets, there may be a decrease in the amount of available on-street parking. A parking study for each area is completed during the design process to assess parking demand and usage. If parking is restricted due to a rain garden or bump out, this will be indicated on the online map where you can preview the proposed locations.

## **Will this work cause me to have sewer backups in my basement? Is this why you are offering the sump pump?**

No. The goal of the project is to carry away as much rain water as possible from your home. The sump pump is provided as an additional component of the project to address any direct connections of the foundation drain from the lateral line and to mitigate additional rain water from seeping into the sanitary pipe at the connection joints.

## **Will there be any disruption of my utilities during construction?**

During construction, there should be minimal disruptions of services. There may be times when your water services are temporarily shut off while the crew works on the waterline. If you are scheduled for a temporary water shut off, the crew will provide you at minimum a 24-hour notice of the water shut off and a window of times to expect the interruption.

## **Post Construction**

### **My property was damaged during construction by one of the crews. Who is going to repair this?**

Any damage that is suspected to have been done by the construction crew needs to be submitted to the Blueprint Outreach Team. Once it has been recorded with the Outreach Team, it will be evaluated by the onsite inspector who will investigate to determine who is at fault. If it is determined the damage was done by the construction crew, they will be responsible for repairing the damage, or you can submit a claim with the contractor through the damage claims process.

### **Am I responsible for maintaining the rain garden if one is installed in the right-of-way in front of my home?**

No. The contractor who installs the rain gardens will hold a 2-year contract to maintain the rain gardens and ensure general functionality (think of this as a warranty period). At the end of this period, the City will assume maintenance of the rain gardens in perpetuity, as they are a part of our sewer infrastructure. Routine and effective maintenance of these rain gardens is critical, not only to ensure their functionality but also to maintain them as neighborhood amenities. Lawn turf planted around the rain garden (on a flat surface, not the slopes) will be the responsibility of the resident.

Residents can contact 311 or the Blueprint hotline (614-645-1253) to report issues or concerns with the rain garden. If there is an afterhours emergency, residents can contact the Sewer Maintenance Section at 614-645-7102.

### **There has been a lot of digging on my street. Will the street be repaved?**

Streets will be repaved on a street-by-street basis. The City will evaluate each street to determine which ones need to be repaved. Depending on the extent of paving required, some will be repaved under the Blueprint Columbus project and conducted by the construction firm in that area. Other streets may be added to the Department of Public Services (DPS) repaving schedule. For further information, please contact the Blueprint Columbus Outreach Team to see if your street will be repaved under the current project or by DPS.

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