

**ANN AUBREY**  
Interim Director

March 25, 2022

Dear Clintonville III Residents,

The following is a compilation of all questions asked in the main presentation during the Clintonville III 30% Design Public Meeting. We have also captured the questions from the breakout rooms but as those questions were property specific, they involve more research and reflection to have the best answer so those will be shared at a later date.

If your question is not answered here, please contact our team by phone: 614-645-1253 or by email: [blueprint@columbus.gov](mailto:blueprint@columbus.gov). Please make sure your name, contact information, and address are included in any message. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

The Blueprint Outreach Team

### **Clintonville III 30% Design Public Meeting Questions by Subject**

#### **Project Questions**

- 1. How does this create permanent local jobs?**
  - a. Blueprint Columbus is a 30-year project, so the duration of that employs contractors in several different fields. In addition, the city has pledged to maintain the rain gardens for life, so the maintenance team will be responsible for caring for the rain gardens and ensuring the infrastructure performs as intended.
- 2. How much overall does Blueprint cost? And how does it compare to "grey" method cost?**
  - a. 2015 cost estimates put the green infrastructure at \$1.8 billion compared to \$2.5 billion for the gray method.
- 3. ArcGIS viewer does not show any planned Blueprint work south of Glencoe Rd, Is this correct?**
  - a. The ArcGIS map is updated at the 60% design mark. Here at 30% the proposed rain garden and other green infrastructure locations are still too tentative and developing. Also, at 60% we will come out and mark the green infrastructure locations in the neighborhoods so everyone can really see the size of things.
- 4. What will the city do to mitigate the amount of radon that will increase when you open up these residents' basement floor?**
  - a. The City installs the sump pump with a cover to help mitigate the escape of radon from the pit. However, the homeowner signs an agreement acknowledging the potential temporary increase in radon during installation: *HOMEOWNER understands and acknowledges that it is unknown whether the work will impact the presence of Radon gas. HOMEOWNER understands and acknowledges that the responsibility for Radon*

*mitigation is entirely the responsibility of the HOMEOWNER, not the CITY, regardless if the presence of Radon gas was exacerbated by the WORK. HOMEOWNER agrees the CITY shall have no liability related to the presence of Radon gas.*

- 5. Is there a map that shows proposed rain garden locations? I can only see what I think are existing ones on the ArcGIS link.**
  - a. The maps on our slides are currently the only physical mock-ups of the proposed location and that is why we share them on the website. ArcGIS map will be updated when we reach 60% design, and the rain garden locations are more certain.
- 6. After a snow or ice storm there can be a serious buildup of ice and packed snow on the curb area which covers the drains. Although chipping away at the ice is the only alternative, will new drains be impacted?**
  - a. Regularly chipping the ice and snow away from drains is the only solution we are aware of, but the city is still collecting data on this issue. When inspecting for sump pump installation and downspout redirection, the teams should take into consideration the current issues with ponding/icing at the outlets.
- 7. I think it would have been better to post this video in advance of the meeting so that we could have more time to provide feedback.**
  - a. Thanks for the feedback. Sorry it feels on the spot. However, you will have time to weigh in today and in the next weeks. Also, again at 60%, in a few months, we will be marking locations and meeting with residents who request site visits. We are available by phone and email and video of this meeting as well as the slides will be available for further review.
- 8. Will civil plans be made available to the public?**
  - a. There are not currently construction plans for this area. However, the 30% design plans are available upon request.
- 9. Does the City have data showing that Clintonville I implementation has led to reductions in frequency of SSO activation and improvements in water quality in receiving waters?**
  - a. It is too soon to report. Some of the DSRs (designated sewer reliefs) are mainline DSRs which means that they won't be mitigated until all three areas of Clintonville Blueprint are completed.
- 10. If our property doesn't dump water, can we opt out? I replaced my sewer and have a French drain, etc.**
  - a. Sump Pumps are a completely voluntary portion of the program. All downspouts are inspected at each home. If downspouts are in good condition and outlet at least 7ft away from the home, no work will be proposed.

### **Sump Pumps**

- 11. We have a sump pump 15 years old. Will we get a new one under Blueprint?**
  - a. The program does not allow for replacement or reimbursement for any existing sump pumps.
- 12. Will you be installing a sump pump if I don't have water in my basement?**
  - a. Signing up for the sump pump list only commits you to have an inspection by a professional contractor. They can tell you if it is feasible to install a sump pump in your

home. Our project installs sump pumps because it gives us a way to disconnect the foundation drain from the lateral line (if the connection exists). Our goal is not to eliminate basement flooding, but the positive side effect of having a sump pump is that it helps with getting water away from your foundation and out to the street.

**13. I was planning on having my basement waterproofed. Should I move ahead with that before the sump pump?**

- a. Each property is different, so it is difficult to answer this as a general question. We are looking at beginning sump pump installations later this year.

**14. What if our sump pump discharges into our back yard?**

- a. If you already have a sump pump, you are not eligible for a new sump pump. The drainage patterns will be looked at as part of the investigation for the roof water redirection portion of our project.

**15. Are sump pumps available to replace very old ones? I bought my house in 2001, and ours was old then. If a sump pump fails completely, would the address become eligible?**

- a. The program does not allow for replacement or reimbursement for any existing sump pumps and installation only occurs in homes that have never had a sump pump before.

**16. For the sump pump program is there a limit to the number of participants/houses or a budget limit?**

- a. Each property that signs up that doesn't have a sump pump can be inspected. Not all properties will receive one after inspection as not all basements are a good fit. Homeowners with multiple properties in a Blueprint area are eligible to have an inspection performed on each. Duplexes are eligible but we can only install one sump pump per lateral line. For example, if one side of the duplex already has a sump pump and the building has only one lateral line, we cannot install an additional sump pump in the other side of the unit.

**17. We get a lot of water in our basement from storms. How can I get someone to come out and discuss options?**

- a. Though our methods can help reduce the problem of water in basements, it is not the goal of the project. Our work all pertains to keeping storm water out of sanitary sewers and our four pillars are designed with that goal in mind. Please sign up for a sump pump if you do not already have one. Other issues should be addressed with a private contractor.

**18. How do we sign up for a sump pump?**

- a. [On our Website](#) or you can call the Outreach Line at 614-645-1253

**19. What is the expected start date for the sump pumps?**

- a. Sump pump installations start when the project is at 60%. Looking at Fall of 2022 to begin.

**20. If we already have a sump pump installed but do not have a backup battery, can we get the backup battery installed?**

- a. No home with an existing sump pump qualifies for any part of the sump pump pillar of our project, and that includes back up batteries.

**21. A local private company installed my neighbor's sump pump and did an excellent job. Can we use that company for our own installation rather than the City of Columbus?**

- a. Sump pumps through our project are installed by contractors who have bid on the specific contract. So, unfortunately, at this time residents cannot pick the contractor to install a Blueprint sump pump.

**22. Any ability to pull forward the sump pump installation or be reimbursed for installing one on my own if I would like to do it sooner than the end of this year?**

- a. No, because of that contractual nature of our agreement with the contractors that bid on the project we have no capacity to perform work outside of our timeline and no program for reimbursement.

**Rain Gardens**

**23. How many trees with large canopy are estimated to be removed for rain gardens?**

- a. That isn't information we have at the 30% design stage, as the rain garden locations are not finalized. I can tell you that any trees we remove we replace following the Recreation & Parks departments guidelines for replacement to help maintain the overall canopy of the City of Columbus. The bigger the tree, the more replacement trees required. Our design team will avoid removing large trees with large canopy.

**24. How is rain garden location determined? Some areas in the neighborhood are very tight with little open space except in the street.**

- a. There are many factors to consider when selecting rain garden locations. It begins with how much water we need to control and where does the water naturally flow to. Then we look at what barriers exist, which can be anything from how the sewer is laid out underneath the street, existing streetlights, hydrants, and other right of way items. Then we ask what would improve the neighborhood. Our order of preference for our Green Infrastructure is as follows. 1. Land Bank/Green Space 2. Right-of-Way Raingardens 3. Pervious Pavers and 4. Bump outs.

**25. Do we have a choice in the style of rain gardens? I may prefer the walled structure as it will look better in the neighborhood.**

- a. Your feedback is noted. We are also trying to be cognizant of how the designs in the different sub areas will work together to be cohesive in appearance. This is a lesson learned from Clintonville 1.

**26. Those reflectors are hideous.**

- a. Thanks for the feedback. The dilemma on how to make them visible for safety and also attractive is a complex one and we will continue to review it.

**27. Can I "volunteer" to have a rain garden placed in front of our house as it would be an ideal spot?**

- a. You absolutely can. We compiled a list of such volunteers from this meeting and the designers are using this information as they select their locations. The location of course would still need to meet the needs of the project, with street flow and grading being considered, but we would much rather place them in places they are welcomed.

**28. You just said rain gardens will have "local and native plants." What does "local" mean? Why not only use native plants? They require the least maintenance and are most beneficial to native insects, pollinators, birds, etc.**

- a. In this case, the speaker clarified that she may have misspoken, and that local and native may be intended to mean largely the same thing. We use native plants that are both flood and drought tolerant in our rain gardens.
- 29. There is a serious deer problem in areas of Clintonville. Will the plants in the rain gardens be deer resistant? Will non-invasive native plants be used?**
- a. We use native, non-invasive plants, selected specifically for their tolerance of going without water for longer periods of time and then getting a great deal at once.
- 30. Are there any thoughts on how this will impact general wildlife? I live near Weber and often the deer come up from Walhalla Ravine to feed on tulips and hostas.**
- a. It has been the experience of Blueprint that the wildlife may become scarce during the noise of the construction phase but that they tend to return once things settle down.
- 31. Who owns the right-of-way where the rain gardens are located?**
- a. 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.
- 32. Do we have the option to decline having a rain garden in our front yard? Our yard is small with all the utilities buried in the front yard except electrical.**
- a. We welcome resident feedback and are willing to review specific sites to explore all available options. Sometimes, a specific location is necessary to allow the project to reach its goals.
- 33. Can a homeowner volunteer part of their property for a raingarden?**
- a. Blueprint Columbus is only able to put rain gardens in the City's right of way. You can talk to Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District about potential rain gardens on private property. They even have a Master Raingardeneer workshop!  
<https://www.franklinswcd.org/>
- 34. At what point are privately installed elements (such as irrigation systems in the right of way) surveyed and taken into account when planning locations for rain gardens?**
- a. That falls into the "What barriers exist?" stage of rain garden selection and is also the kind of feedback we are looking for at the 30% Design stage as we can't tell this information generally just by looking. Residents should remove private infrastructure such as gardens, fences, and irrigation systems in the City's right of way before construction to avoid damage to these elements.
- 35. Who is making the plant selection decisions? Are there staff members who could be consulted with/engaged in conversation with some local Clintonville gardening groups who know a LOT about natives and a LOT about what our deer tend to decimate?**
- a. Each design team must consult with a landscape architect or horticulturalist regarding the plant design (if they don't have one on staff). The City has a landscape architect on staff who manages the maintenance team and has created our list of plants to be used. At 30% Design we are some time away from those decisions and will conduct a plant survey for anyone who will feature a rain garden in front of their property to allow them some input on colors and types.
- 36. How do you calculate how many rain gardens are needed on a given street? Should we expect to see a rain garden in every other front yard? Or only 4-6 total on the whole street? What goes into that calculation/decision?**
- a. The number of rain gardens needed depends on the amount of water that needs to be controlled and where water naturally flows. Some streets that are at a lower elevation

than others may need more Rain Gardens and some that are at high points may receive none.

- 37. Do rain gardens have to be a certain distance from fire hydrants because of the Fire Dept protocol of regularly flushing the hydrants (and potentially sending a torrent of hydrant water into the rain garden, damaging plants)?**
- Yes. The edge of the rain garden is at least 5 feet away from a fire hydrant.

### Permeable Pavers

- 38. Our street has brick over gravel with sandstone curbs. Our brick street is over a hundred years old. Hall block brick was used. Salt glazed brick last for several hundred years. Could we have the brick exposed to make it pervious, again? This would be less intrusive. See E Como at Morningside. That is what we have now on Clinton Heights.: Noreen, you have brick under your asphalt street. Removing the asphalt would make it pervious again. and you could keep the sandstone curb, No ugly concrete.**
- Thank you for the feedback, but those one-hundred-year-old brick streets are quite different from the permeable pavers. When we install a street with permeable pavement, we dig down ~5 feet, lay an under drain that goes directly to the storm sewer and then build back up layers of aggregate for the water to pass through. Those traditional brick streets do not allow water to pass through nor do they have a drain to catch the stormwater they collect.
- 39. I would love to have a pervious patio! I suppose you won't pay for that, though!**
- Unfortunately, no private property work besides our existing pillars is not being considered at this time.
- 40. How quickly does [permeable pavement] get destroyed with normal freezing and thawing?**
- Because the water moves through the pavers, they are largely unaffected by the freeze/thaw cycle. They do require maintenance that the city performs, such as sweeping and re-chipping, but as water doesn't collect on top it doesn't freeze over.
- 41. ASU developed a pervious concrete. Has this been considered?**
- ASU is still developing their concrete. To quote their website, "The ability of in-place pervious concretes to effectively drain stormwater runoff gradually reduces as it becomes clogged due to the ingress of fine particles into its pore structure." It also hasn't been tested with the layers of aggregate and storm drain we propose with pervious pavers to ensure where the water goes. The summation of their research is not yet complete, but they still seem to be leaning towards its primary use being in parking lots to avoid runoff.[CF1]
- 42. Are pavers slippery when wet?**
- Because the pavers are less likely to collect water or puddles on top, they are no more slippery than our asphalt roads.
- 43. Brick Street Question: What if the street already has a brick street, will it be left as is?**
- Yes, DPS requires us not to put permeable pavers on existing brick streets.

### **Lateral Lining**

#### **44. Is the entire lateral lined?**

- a. Our team stops the liner short of the 4 to 6 transition (where the 6” sanitary lateral meets the 4” pipe coming from your home). We stop within a few feet to allow for future cleanouts to be installed if necessary and also because we do not want to line through that transition.

### **Ponding/Flooding/Street concerns**

#### **45. When the city repaves streets, will it be sure not to block the connections to the roof-water drains?**

- a. Paving done through the Blueprint project does consider the downspout and sump pump outlets. If new curb is installed, holes will be cored for the drains.

#### **46. Will Blueprint be helping fix paved-over outlets for storm water drains?**

- a. Unfortunately, Blueprint does not have the capacity to address issues that were previously existing before our project. We repair any issue we create but what you are referring to is the purview of The Department of Public Service and you can report issues to them by calling 311 or emailing 311@columbus.gov.

#### **47. We have problems with ice in the street (Arden) caused by already existing sump pumps. How will that be prevented as more sump pumps are installed?**

- a. The city and Blueprint are aware of the ponding issue and are still reviewing how best to consider this within the scope of our project. If you have a specific address where that is happening, please report it to our [blueprint@columbus.gov](mailto:blueprint@columbus.gov) email address, pictures are very helpful, or call us at the Outreach line 614-645-1253

#### **48. How do you control the mosquitos that will breed in the ponding water when all the water heads to the street?**

- a. The rain garden will not pond over 48 hours, so it won't cause mosquito issues. Water from the downspout redirection will drain to the next storm inlet.

#### **49. Will the rain gardens breed mosquitos?**

- a. The rain gardens have been designed to drain within 48 hours, and mosquitos typically need 72 hours or more to hatch. Based on the 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.

#### **50. Will this help with ponding and flooding on my street during heavy rain?**

- a. Our project does not eliminate flooding or ponding on the streets, but often the green infrastructure can help alleviate some of this. A happy side effect of installing green infrastructure is that it gives this water somewhere to go. If there are areas of severe

ponding and flooding, please let our design team know. Email pictures/description to [blueprint@columbus.gov](mailto:blueprint@columbus.gov) and we can investigate it.

**51. Fallis Rd also has that problem--iced over street in winter from sump pump overflow.**

a. Thank you for this feedback.

**52. We live on Amazon behind Calvary Bible Church and the large church asphalt parking lot prevents water draining causes water to pool in our and 3 neighboring back yards ... this is getting worse ...same happens behind large REMAX building on high street ... is there any proposed solution or creating better drainage from large parking lots?**

a. Your comment is noted and will be provided to the design team. However, street flooding and runoff issues are outside the purview of Blueprint Columbus. Some of our methods have the happy side effect of lessening some of these issues but it is not our goal to address all flooding. Flooding instances should be reported to 311 by calling or emailing at [311@columbus.gov](mailto:311@columbus.gov)

**53. Water from sump pumps is causing very large ice slicks on streets. Won't increasing sump pump usage increase this problem?**

a. The icing in the streets is considered a temporary or seasonal issue by the Department of Public Service. That being said, if you have examples of bad cases please do send them to us at [blueprint@columbus.gov](mailto:blueprint@columbus.gov), pictures are especially helpful, or call us at the Outreach line, 614-645-1253. We want to be aware of where this is occurring.

**54. Will you be addressing homeowners that are backing water up onto others property?**

a. Maybe indirectly through downspout redirection but addressing that is not part of our project intent.



**ANN AUBREY**  
Interim Director

