

Hilltop 4 (Highland/Harris)

60% Design Meeting Summary

May 10, 2022



Meeting Overview

Meeting Purpose

- Inform residents and businesses about Blueprint's 60% design for the Highland/Harris area
- Gather public feedback
- Review project schedule and next steps

Meeting Attendance

- 29 participants attended the virtual meeting

Project Team Attendance

- Tiffany Conn, City of Columbus
- Jeremy Cawley, City of Columbus
- Alana Shockey, City of Columbus
- Daniel Biru, Korda
- Joe Tribble, Korda
- Chad Kettlewell, Coldwater, Korda
- Chris Reichle, Hazen Sawyer, Korda
- Ben Vandermeiden, Brown and Caldwell, Korda
- Marie Keister, MurphyEpson
- Nick Hoffman, MurphyEpson
- Anthony Dixon, MurphyEpson
- Elyas Ingram, D&D PolicyWorks

Meeting Summary

A virtual public meeting was held for the Blueprint project in the Hilltop 4 Highland/Harris area on Tuesday, May 10, 2022, from 6:00-7:30 PM using Zoom. Meeting attendees were not required to pre-register for the online meeting but were muted upon entry. They had the option to appear on video. Attendees were able to post questions and provide comments in the chat box during the meeting and invited to provide live comments at various points throughout the virtual meeting. For those calling in on a landline or voice only call, a team member would unmute the attendee so he or she could ask questions or make comments. Most attendees logged on within the first few minutes after the meeting began at 6:00 PM.

The meeting agenda follows:

- Blueprint 101: A refresher
 - Today's focus: green infrastructure
- Lessons learned
- Hilltop 4 neighborhood plans
- Next steps
 - Opportunities for discussion throughout

Marie Keister with MurphyEpson, the public involvement lead and the meeting facilitator, greeted meeting attendees, reviewed the meeting logistics and agenda. Tiffany Conn, City of Columbus outreach manager, provided participants a refresher on the Blueprint initiative. Tiffany discussed how rainwater getting into the sanitary sewer system is a major problem, then outlined solutions and different types of green infrastructure. Tiffany also discussed how Blueprint is a 30-year project covering at least 21 project areas in Columbus.

Jeremy Cawley, City of Columbus project manager, discussed lessons learned from previous projects, described new green infrastructure approaches based on past community feedback and introduced the Hilltop 4 Highland/Harris project area. Danial Biru and Joe Tribble with Korda, the engineering consultant team, shared renderings of proposed green infrastructure and identified where they could be located in the Highland/Harris area.

Meeting participants were able to provide comments at various points during the presentation. A summary of comments and responses during the meeting and received afterwards is shown in the section below.

After walking through the green infrastructure details, Marie recapped next steps. Tiffany noted that the sump pump program will occur later in 2022. Marie wrapped up and adjourned the meeting.

Comments & Questions Received During the Virtual Public Meeting

Question: Can you confirm that the city is doing some sort of work on Sullivant Avenue and if so, is that related to Blueprint Columbus or something else?

Response: Blueprint Columbus hasn't started construction for either Hilltop 4 or Hilltop 1 project areas. It is possible this is a Department of Public Service or another city project.

Follow-up Response: After the meeting, it was confirmed that the work on Sullivant Avenue is being conducted by the City of Columbus Department of Public Service. They are fixing sidewalks, crosswalks and driveway entrances.

Question: We are concerned about the area the Blueprint Columbus Outreach Team had marked for future rain gardens in our yard. Within the proposed rain garden site there is an existing French discharge drain that we had Ohio Basement Authority install. How is that going to affect the rain garden bed, since it will be in the way of our discharge pipe? We also have a chain-link fence, so I'm worried we have to move that back and how this is all going to work.

Response: For the sump pump discharge, we can connect that into the rain garden. We've done that a lot with downspouts too. That way (the sump pump discharge) is not getting cut off from the street and it's still getting out and draining into the system. It is possible that your fence line is within the city's right-of-way and may need to be moved. We will review the plans and get back with you.

Question: How deep are rain gardens? They seem to be within the Columbia Gas right-of-way. Will the required depth of those lines be maintained? Will sidewalks be replaced?

Response: The depth of a rain garden depends on its type. Overall, rain gardens shouldn't be more than 48 inches. These dimensions are from top of grade down. If there is a Columbia Gas

line located within a proposed rain garden and the line can't be relocated/accommodated behind our rain garden – then the City will work with them to relocate their gas line. This happens occasionally and we try to avoid these lines, when possible, but sometimes gas mains are located in places where we need to have storm structures.

Question: Will sidewalks be replaced?

Response: Some sidewalks will be replaced as part of the project. An impact postcard was mailed to both the property owner and physical address noting if sidewalks at your property would be affected. If you are unsure, please contact the Blueprint Outreach team at blueprint@columbus.gov or (614) 645-1253.

Question: How are rain garden locations chosen? Why was our property chosen as a potential rain garden candidate? We are concerned as it consumes most of the front yard, a bus stop is located here, and we anticipate the garden will become a trash receptacle.

Response: There are many factors to consider when selecting rain garden locations. It begins with how much water we need to control and where the water naturally flows 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 selection is as follows. 1. Land Bank/Green Space 2. Right-of-Way Raingardens 3. Pervious Pavers and 4. Bump outs.

Response: At your specific location there is a known point of flooding at the northwest corner of the intersection on Clarendon and Mound. A good degree of that flooding is coming from surface water and drains from the north side of Mound Street. In order to address that the team is looking at putting a rain garden as close to that location as possible and in this particular situation there is a large tree on a nearby corner, so that's why your property was chosen. In addition, a 48-inch sanitary sewage pipe runs up under the sidewalk and we were in a position where we needed to put this rain garden between the sidewalk and the right-of-way line. There are also several feet of additional right-of-way in this location which factored into the rain garden placement.

Question: I am excited about these rain gardens and interested in having one in front of my property. Can a representative stop by for a discussion? Perhaps my house could be a showcase for the rest of the block?

Response: We so appreciate that.

Follow-up Response: This residence is not scheduled to receive a rain garden. Based on its location, the specific address would not address a flooding point of interest and is too far away to be affective. In addition, there is an existing sanitary sewer within the right-of-way that would prevent this property from being considered for a raingarden.

I think it would be a great idea to have a neighborhood parking lot with lighting and security camera(s) at the empty lot on the corner of Whitethorne and South Eureka. This would alleviate parking problems in the Hilltop neighborhood.

Response: All non-Blueprint Columbus suggestions and concerns can be directed to the 311 Customer Service Center by phone (614) 645-3111 or email 311@Columbus.gov.

Comment: I would suggest proposing a rain garden and small lake at Hilltonia Park.

Response: Thank you for your suggestions. The team did consider a number of large regional detention basins on Hilltonia's park property, but Columbus Department of Rec and Parks has proposed plans for the area.

Question: What does the blueish grey and white dashed boundary line represent on the project mapping? Does that reflect something on this map running north and south on Terrace?

Response: Those lines represent nothing more than a paper boundary within the Hilltop 4 project area. These lines represent three areas – further zoomed in at a closer scale on additional map slides. They are for visual purposes only and help focus on a deeper dive.

Question: Portions of South Ogden Avenue have constant issues with flooding and ponding of water. During heavy rain events my downspouts will back up. A rain garden is located across the street of my property – is there a solution which would direct the flow of the standing water to this rain garden?

Response: Just south of that rain garden is a curb inlet and that's one of the known flooding areas. So, as part of this project the team recommends locating a rain garden in that location to help dampen the flooding in that particular curbing. The engineering team will take a closer look if standing water is still ponding on the street two days after a rain event. We will also review the storm sewer infrastructure nearby to identify if there is an issue with the curb inlet.

Follow-up Response: After the meeting Korda followed up and visited this property (640 S Ogden) on 6/6/22 after a significant rainfall. There was evidence of standing water along the curb line in front of this property. It was most prominent at the common property line between 640 and 644 Ogden where there is broken curb and a damaged downspout leader from 640 Ogden.

The standing water appears to be due to a sag in the street/curb grade at this location, and not due to any deficiencies in the storm sewer system. It's also possible the downspout leader may be damaged somewhere between the house and street. The rain garden installation will not address those issues.

Question: Can project representatives share examples of different types of rain gardens?

Response: Yes, several examples were shown in the meeting presentation, and we will post this presentation online. This presentation can be viewed here:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JTKsPEoy1Qs&t=4s>

Question: Hilltop 4 was originally part of the Camp Chase tract. Are the existing homes and neighborhood built on swamp or marsh land?

Response: You could check local records or history of the area, but we do know the project area has flooding issues we are assessing to make sure the green infrastructure improvements minimize any flooding. At this time, we do not have details of the underlying soil structure. As we move beyond the 60% design stage geo-technical studies will be conducted that include soil borings (which allow the team to identify the ground soil make-up).

Question: How can I find out more information about the Hilltop 4 project?

Response: Check out our interactive map where you can see if there is green infrastructure planned near you. Also, visit the Hilltop 4 page on our website to get additional project information: <https://blueprintneighborhoods.com/neighborhoods/hilltop-4/>

Comment: I could imagine that Safford Avenue could be converted from a street to a canal which would help with drainage issues in the Hilltop 4 area. This would be similar to what they have in Los Angeles, but not as large. Bridges could be built along intersecting streets. The canal could be connected to an underground sewer system or a dry run near the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation.

Additionally, I think removable grating could be installed at storm sewer collection points which could be pulled up for trash and debris which would help keep this out of the streams and rivers.

Response: Thank you for your suggestion.