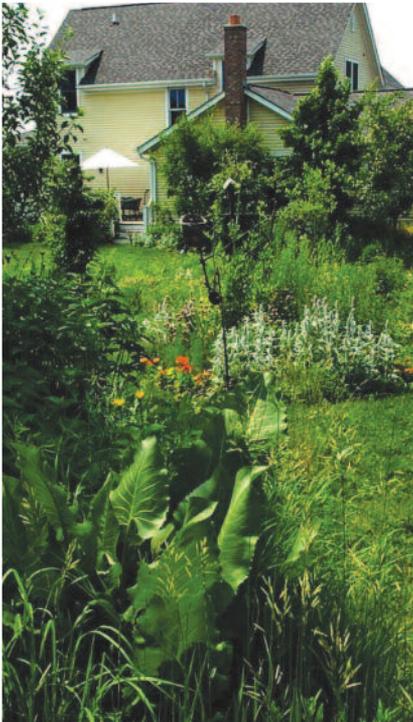


PROP P PROGRESS

City Working with Residents on Storm Water Project Designs



City of St. Peters staff members have been busy this summer meeting with homeowners about projects that will greatly reshape the way that our community manages our storm water system. Residents from 15 different subdivisions have seen presentations outlining how St. Peters plans to build projects that retrofit storm water basins and restore stream channels with native plantings and other natural methods to improve water quality.

Made possible by the passage of Proposition P last year, these projects will

Prop P storm water projects will retrofit basins and restore stream channels with natural methods to improve water quality.

transfer the burden of care of our community's green storm water systems away from neighborhood associations to the City of St. Peters. Meetings between the residents and City staff are laying the groundwork for this transfer, making sure that residents are comfortable with the City's improvement plans.

In each project, the design is going away from outdated methods, such as manicured grass and concrete channels that move storm water as quickly as possible through storm water basins and streams. Instead, the City of St. Peters will build natural storm water systems with native habitat that help slow down storm water, spread it out and soak it into the ground, improving water quality. In that way, says Russ Batzel, manager of the City's Transportation and Development Services Group, everyone who lives downstream from these storm water improvements will benefit. The City of

St. Peters will then maintain these storm water projects, taking them off the hands of homeowners' associations.

Batzel said that by maintaining the projects, the City will make sure the projects do what they were intended to do. "The goal is to improve water quality. Filtering and removing pollutants from storm water, reducing erosion and reducing flooding affects all of the people downstream from the project, not just the neighborhoods where the project is located," he said.

The City of St. Peters has met with homeowners associations in Country Creek, Canyon Creek, Country Lake, Turnberry Bluff/Turnberry Gardens, St. Peters Villas, McClay Valley, Pegasus Farm, Willott Square, Englewood, Country Crossing/Country Crossing Estates, Ohmes Farm, Crescent Hills/Springwood, Applewood, Enwood and Highlands.

After the initial meeting with a homeowners association, the City moves forward with design if the homeowners association's members show their intent to provide easements for a storm water project. The City then hires a design consultant and comes back to the homeowners association when the design reaches the 30% stage. At this point, the City will move forward with the project if the homeowners association signs a formal storm water management agreement to provide the City with easements to build and maintain the storm water project. Ohmes Farm was the first to sign a formal agreement.

Construction of the first round of Proposition P storm water projects is expected in 2014 after completion of the design, approval and bidding processes. Maintenance will be ongoing, with the City taking care of any future problems or threats to project areas such as invasive plants.

In all, the City of St. Peters has identified 100 storm water projects in our community costing nearly \$120 million in order to fix storm water issues as well as meet federal guidelines for water quality. Passage of Proposition P in 2012 authorized a four-tenths of a cent sales tax to pay for storm water and parks improvements and maintenance. St. Peters voters previously authorized up to \$40 million in bonds to pay for storm water improvements, and the Board of Aldermen has issued \$4 million of those bonds so far to help pay for the first round of storm water improvements. The City is issuing storm water bonds as needed, and paying off those bonds with revenues from the Proposition P sales tax that went into effect on Jan. 1, 2013.

In the meantime, many neighborhoods have asked the City of St. Peters to take over maintenance of their storm water basins even before the City can build a retrofit project. The City has obliged, and now maintains storm water systems in more than 20 subdivisions. Batzel says that this allows the City to make sure that these storm water systems are maintained properly while setting the groundwork for future retrofit improvement projects.

You can read Proposition P updates online at www.stpetersmo.net. Click on the Proposition P Projects button on the left side of the home page.