Decatur Stormwater Master Plan – Stormwater Academy #3

Please share your thoughts about the stormwater topics we discussed tonight.

Small Group Discussion Follow-Up: Priority Setting

The Stormwater Master Plan will recommend projects to address identified concerns, and it will prioritize these projects. At this meeting, we discussed criteria to guide the setting of these priorities. While you may have already noted your top criteria with stickers on the flip charts, we would like to get some further input from you to document this important discussion. ***Please consider the list of criteria below that might be used to rank stormwater projects. Please add other criteria to the list that you think should be included. Then, please mark your top FIVE criteria, in order of importance to you, by marking them with numbers 1 through 5 (1 = most important).*** You can also add comments below to explain your responses or provide additional input.

_____ Condition (damaged infrastructure that could worsen might warrant higher priority)
_____ Flood frequency
_____ Depth of flooding
_____ Impact to major thoroughfare(s)
_____ Impact to critical facilities (e.g., schools, hospitals)
_____ Impact to structures (e.g., homes, businesses)
_____ Number of people impacted
_____ Flooding of yards
_____ Infrastructure ownership (public ownership may be easier and less costly to address)
_____ Impact to water quality
_____ _____
_____ _____
_____ _____
_____ _____

Other Comments on Priority Setting

What about costs?

We did not include costs in our list, but costs will be considered in the priority setting process for all projects. Estimated costs will be used to generate estimates of ***benefit:cost*** ratios for projects. ***Do you have comments about how costs should be considered?***

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Small Group Discussion Follow-Up: Model Results

The planning team created a model of the City's stormwater infrastructure and subjected it to storm events to identify where ***capacity of the infrastructure*** may need to be expanded. The model results show ***where*** these simulated storm events resulted in exceedances of 75% of the infrastructure capacity. The maps also show where the planning team has received reports of stormwater concerns from the community.

The model is ***not the only tool*** that will be used to identify projects for the Stormwater Master Plan. However, it is a source of information that can help to pinpoint problems, identify causes, and guide the development of solutions.

Do the model results identify infrastructure capacity issues that you think might relate to stormwater problems that you have observed? If so, where?

What benefits do you see to using a model in developing the stormwater master plan?

What concerns do you have about using a model in developing the plan?

Do you have questions about the model?

Definitions of Model Terms

Capacity: The proportion of the pipe volume that is used to convey a storm event.

Critical Design Storm: A storm event of duration and intensity that the infrastructure is designed to manage. In the case of Decatur, the critical design storm is 2.2 inches of rain over 6 hours. This amount is reflective of a typical heavy storm.

25-Year Storm: An extreme storm event with a rainfall amount that has a four percent probability of occurring at a location in a year. This event is equal to 5.95 inches over 24 hours and would be an extreme weather event, such as a hurricane.

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Open House: Policy Ideas

At the last public meeting in May, the planning team received input from participants on several policy issues related to stormwater management in Decatur. The following are ***possible approaches*** to stormwater policy that were discussed that evening. ***These are not draft policy recommendations.*** They are ideas that some people supported at the meeting and on which we are presenting in order to hear your reactions, seek further input, and identify new ideas. The draft Stormwater Master Plan – to be released in August – will have policy recommendations that we will discuss at a public meeting in September.

Single Family Homes: Adopt an ordinance (like the City of Atlanta) that requires on-site stormwater management to address water quality controls and infiltration for the first one inch of rainfall on a parcel (even single-family homes). The City would supply guidance for development of a range of easy to implement solutions for smaller projects; larger projects would require specialized engineering.	***Comments on This Approach:***
Private Infrastructure: Consider selective acquisition of private infrastructure by the City where the impacts off-site are especially pronounced and where the costs and ease of obtaining an easement are low.	***Comments on This Approach:***
Stormwater Utility Fees: Adjust the ERU (see poster) to reflect the current average house size in Decatur. Use a sliding scale for the single-family home stormwater utility fee based on impervious cover. Allow credits for installation of green infrastructure practices to reduce existing stormwater impacts. Increase fees overall to at least two times their current level to provide more funding for stormwater management and projects in the City (see poster).	***Comments on This Approach:***
Trees: Manage stormwater without adverse impact to existing trees where possible.	***Comments on This Approach:***

General Observations and Comments