Midlothian Creek Community Meeting: Detailed Green Infrastructure Mapping In Your Town!

Friday November 9th 2012
South Suburban Mayors and Managers
1906 W. 174th Street, East Hazel Crest, IL

9:00 to 12:00 Blue Island, Robbins, Midlothian, and Oak Forest
12:00 to 3:00 Posen, Dixmoor, and Markham

Please join a team of Community Leaders, Public Agencies, Non-Profits, and Consultants dedicated to helping make your community a better place to live. Thanks to Chicago Wilderness and a generous grant from Boeing, a group has been working for the past year to identify green infrastructure opportunities within the Midlothian Creek watershed. Your input is critical to discovering all of the green infrastructure possibilities in your community.

At this meeting we will discuss:

• What is Green Infrastructure and how can it help?
• Reducing Flooding
• Saving Infrastructure Costs
• Economic Development
• Beautification
• Trails
• Open Space
• And More!

This meeting is ideal for Mayors, Managers, Public Works Directors, Parks Directors, City Planners, City Engineers, and Economic Development Directors. Please feel free to invite others with knowledge and ideas about how to improve your community.
Midlothian Creek Green Infrastructure Plan
Meeting Agenda
April 17, 2012

I. Introductions

II. SWAT/CW Framework

III. Green Infrastructure Overview

IV. Project Description
   a. Review Scope
   b. Review Geography
   c. Review current and potential stakeholders

V. Midlothian Creek Opportunities
   a. Identify current and planned projects
   b. Identify problem areas
   c. Identify Economic Development District
   d. Discuss obstacles: Ordinances, funding, etc.

VI. Next Steps

VII. Other…
Midlothian Creek Conference Call
April 27, 2012

Participants: Mark Bouman, Nancy Williamson, Eric Neagu

1) Verify all readily available data and sources thus far integrated into GIS Base Map
(See below for list of data already obtained, as well as data needed)

2) Reach out to Jessie Elam for GIV 2.0 layers, copy Nancy and Mark on email.

3) Collect Additional Resource Layers Through Experts
   - Soil and Water Conservation District
   - Forest Preserve
   - MWRD
   - Parks* Maybe
   - IDNR Nature Preserves
   - SSMMA
   - Jason Berry

Show what layers we have.

Ask what layers we need?

4) Develop project timeline.

5) Finalize Base Maps

5) Meet with individual communities to collect additional project and input.

6) Chicago Wilderness GIV 2.0 Location: Conservationgis.com username: cmap2
   password: chicago2

List of Existing and Needed Resource Layers:

Geospatial data were obtained from a variety of sources including but not limited to federal, state, and local agencies. A single repository/file geodatabase was created using Geographic Information Systems (GIS), specifically, ArcGIS® Desktop version 10, in order to store, organize, and manage various geospatial data formats, including vector, raster, and tabular data. Map creation involved using the following spatial datasets:

Already Obtained:

- Parcels - Cook County GIS
- Municipal Boundaries - City of Chicago GIS
- TIF Districts - South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association
- Brownfields - South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association
- Natural Areas - South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association
• Floodplains - FEMA
• Wetlands - IDNR GIS
• Hydrology - NIPC

Still Need:
• Building Footprints
• 2010 Census Blocks Data
• Public transportation routes
• Trails (existing & planned)
• Identify vacant/brownfield parcels within proximity to existing parks and/or natural areas
• Topography
• Land Use
• INAI Sites
• INPC Nature Preserve Sites
• Groundwater uses
• Buffers
• Location of Recreational Facilities
• Geology
• SSURGO Soils
• Conservation Easements
1. Project Introduction
   a. Overview
   b. Participants
   c. Outcomes

2. Verify all readily available data and sources thus far integrated into GIS Base Map
   a. Any other information CMAP may have available?
   b. Any information CMAP would be interested in

3. Additional Resource Layers:
   a. Soil and Water Conservation District
   b. Forest Preserve
   c. MWRD
   d. Parks
   e. IDNR Nature Preserves
   f. SSMMA

4. Finalize Base Maps

5. Integration Opportunities with LTA Process
   a. SSMMA GIS Atlas
   b. Other Green Infrastructure Resources
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- Location of Recreational Facilities
- Geology
- SSURGO Soils
- Conservation Basements
Midlothian Creek Green Infrastructure Plan
Natural Resource Experts Meeting Agenda
June 26, 2012

I. Introductions

II. SWAT/CW Framework
   a. Millennium Reserve and America’s Great Outdoors

IV. Project Description
   a. Review Scope
   b. Review Geography
   c. Review current and potential stakeholders

V. Midlothian Creek Opportunities
   a. Review current data layers
   b. Discuss additional available layers
   c. Identify and map green infrastructure opportunities

VI. Next Steps

VII. Other…
Chicago Wilderness Sustainable Watershed Action Team
Midlothian Watershed Resource Expert Workshop
June 26, 2012 Meeting Notes

Attending: Jason Biller (Chicago State University), Mark Bouman (The Field Museum), Steve Byers (Illinois Nature Preserves Commission/Illinois Department of Natural Resources), Jonathan Grabowy (Metropolitan Water Reclamation District), Matt Harrison (Metropolitan Planning Council), Dennis Latto (South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association), Eric Neagu (Weaver-Boos), Eric Otto (Forest Preserve District of Cook County), Ed Paesel (South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association), Neil Pellmann (Will/South Cook Soil and Water Conservation District), Rebecca Schillo (The Field Museum), Dan Spencer (Forest Preserve District of Cook County); Nancy Williamson (Illinois Department of Natural Resources)

Bouman, Neagu, and Williamson convened the meeting

Bouman and Williamson introduced the SWAT concept with a brief powerpoint

Latto had prepared a large scale printed map of a large portion of the watershed, with important data layers displayed. He also introduced the group to the South Suburban Atlas Regional Mapping Intermediary (www.ssatlas.org)

The key questions for the meeting: is all the necessary data present on the map? Is this the correct regional extent? Is there development activity to be accounted for?

An extended discussion ensued (presented here in the order it occurred):

Paesel: The tollway is about to let contracts for the I-57/I-294 interchange; does it involve moving Midlothian Creek?

Grabowy: MWRD recently re-modeled and re-mapped the area

Latto: The brownfield inventory is derived from data from CMAP and an internally developed list (probably of sites that have been through a Phase I inventory)

Latto: The “natural areas” layer is really public open space)

Grabowy: What about a layer of foreclosed properties? Paesel: SSMMA has that layer.

Good layer to have: MWRD-owned land

Latto: The floodplain on the map is FEMA; Grabowy: MWRD has applied for a LOMR (letter of map revision) in the region
More discussion about the interchange and possible move of Midlothian creek? Paesel: new interchange at I-57 and 147th; IDOT is improving 147th from Western to Kedzie (new bridge decks at Kedzie and 294)
Liana from IDNR Bartlett should be reviewing permits

Byers: Tollway is working with TNC in terms of wetland impacts

Map should show sub-watersheds; MWRD re-drew based on 2’ contours and tried to incorporate them into HUCs (so far Jennifer of USGS hasn’t); based on 2003 LIDAR data that Cook flew and they worked the relationship with municipalities into the map

Williamson: Map should show entire watersheds because so much Forest Preserve land is in headwaters of Midlothian Creek

Should map Calumet Union Drainage Dutch watersheds – (MWRD is stabilizing that with a smallish project in Markham)

Gispub.mwrd.org/swima (swima) – one more layer by sub-basins

Huge amount of storage required to reduce stormwater

MWRD doing a streambank stabilization project in Tinley Park (really a health and safety issue)

Spencer: recommend expanding the map through Oak Forest and Tinley Park areas

Grabowy: reservoirs have been in the watershed since the 1970s/80s (NRCS)

Latto: could put entire watershed as an inset

Spencer: has plant community maps for entire area

Paesel: Didn’t Oak Forest put in for a CMAP Local Technical Assistance grant for OF, Robbins, Midlothian?

Schillo: do we want to include TNC parcels? And trail connections? Williamson: yes. Schillo: important to think about how to get to TNC sites from public trans and bike trails?

Paesel: Update to South Suburban Bike Plan is on the way

Put Cal-Sag Bike Trail on map
Williamson: question about soils. This was an important discussion in McHenry. The problem here is more about lands that are filled. Alan Hobscheid with County has been working with NRCS to get update.

Other good layers: Pre-settlement layer (SSMMA)

1’ contour data (SSMMA)

Electrical (SSMMA)

Tinley Park High School has purple loosestrife

Tinley Park Mental Hospital is in Hickory Creek watershed

What should be boundaries of planning area? Include BI; all of Gensburg-Markham; going to 175th to capture the hospital and the Cal-Sag Channel to Fay’s Point

Consensus to definitely use MWRD water layers

Impervious surfaces?

Threatened and Endangered species layer from DNR (would need a mask)

Trail opportunities

Quarterly meetings of Little Calumet watershed (attended by mayors or their reps) – put it on paper – next meeting Sept/Oct

Next steps – resource experts one more time
Then to community? Or to watershed group?
Midlothian Creek Green Infrastructure Plan
Natural Resource Experts Meeting Agenda
July 30, 2012

I. Introductions

IV. Review Past Suggestions
   a. Review Scope
   b. Review Geography

V. Midlothian Creek Updated Map
   a. Review current data layers
   b. Discuss additional available layers
   c. Identify and map green infrastructure opportunities

VI. Next Steps

VII. Other…
Attendees:
Nancy Williamson, Dennis Latto, Eric Neagu, Jonathan Grabowy, Dan Spencer, Neil Pellman, Ed Paesel

Map Notes:

- Map
  - Label Oak Forest Hospital
    - Master Plan has been done and GIS information should be available for natural areas
  - Several large open space areas under private control do not appear. Please confirm that this is not a layer turned off. For example, at Kedzie and I-57 there is a church with considerable open space that is not shown.
  - Add trails
  - Replace “Pace Routes” in legend with “Trails”
  - Eric to reach out to Nicor for pipe information
  - Add Schools to map.
  - CCFPD has hydrologic restoration mapping. Add if possible
  - Add Forest Preserve Bike Trails
  - Add cemeteries
  - Add Com-Ed Transmission Lines
  - Add COD/TOD limits where applicable
  - Add proposed 294/57 interchange
  - Move wetlands layer to top everywhere
  - Add MWRD Lands, if possible
  - Add GIV 2.0 Connection inset
  - Add ComEd Transmission line corridors where possible

- Limits
  - Expand north to include confluence of Little Calumet and Cal-Sag Channel
  - Expanding south to 175th was discussed, but upon further review the contiguous forest continues for some distance south and the current border of 167th seems practicable.

- Labels:
  - Major arterial streets need to be labeled
  - Major waterways and water bodies need to be labeled
  - Label Tinley Creek
  - Cal-Sag Tributary C goes through golf course in Midlothian (East of Rubio Woods)

- Miscellany:
  - Cook County Hazard Mitigation Plan is in process.
- Discuss Land Acquisition for Forest Preserve in Report
- Discuss Soils Conditions in Report.
- Opportunity to expand greenways along creek
- Discuss drain tile impacts in report
Attendees:
Nancy Williamson, Dennis Latto, Eric Neagu, Jonathan Grabowy, Jason Berry, Mike Rizzietiello, Karen Kreis

Purpose: The purpose of this meeting is to review the final draft of the map and to discuss next steps of the project with community participants. Below is a summary of the meeting discussion.

- **Project Status Update (Dennis summarized map)**
  - Map is almost complete and included expanded areas.
  - Need to add additional street labels.
  - Change trails to be proposed and larger.
  - It was agreed that the base layers are good
  - Next steps include:
    - Converting existing open and green space to a Green Shade;
    - Adding preliminary green linkages in advance of community meeting.
    - Add Village-owned parcels if possible.
    - Identify roads and streets for complete streets and retrofitting.

- **IGIG**
  - We discussed the IGIG project at length. An opportunity on Midlothian municipal land seems ideal and we will discuss further with the Village of Midlothian.
  - A letter from the Village to MWRDGC requesting IGIG support in funds or in-kind would be helpful.

- **MWRDGC**
  - It was suggested that we submit the final report to MWRDGC to identify potential partnership opportunities;
  - Cook County continues to work on Hazard Mitigation Plan
  - Modeling issues between state and MWRD did not get resolved.
Midlothian Creek Green Infrastructure Plan
Natural Resource Experts Workshop Agenda
November 9, 2012
1:00 to 3:00

I. Introductions

II. SWAT/CW Framework

IV. Green Infrastructure 101

V. Midlothian Creek Workshop

VI. Next Steps
## Midlothian Creek SWAT Project Community Workshop
### Attendees

**November 9, 2012**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Community</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Christina Schroeder</td>
<td>MWRDGC</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Christina.schroeder@mwr.d.org">Christina.schroeder@mwr.d.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rick Hansen</td>
<td>Midlothian</td>
<td><a href="mailto:PWSUPT@villageofmidlothian.net">PWSUPT@villageofmidlothian.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karen Kreis</td>
<td>Midlothian</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Krnkreis@yahoo.com">Krnkreis@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don Schupek</td>
<td>Posen</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stan Barwock</td>
<td>Posen</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary Poulsen</td>
<td>Blue Island</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Mpoulsen@CityofBlueIsland.org">Mpoulsen@CityofBlueIsland.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jason Barry</td>
<td>Blue Island</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Jberry@CityofBlueIsland.org">Jberry@CityofBlueIsland.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nicholas Crite</td>
<td>Blue Island</td>
<td><a href="mailto:NCrite@CityofBlueIsland.org">NCrite@CityofBlueIsland.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jodi Prout</td>
<td>Blue Island</td>
<td><a href="mailto:JProut@CityofBlueIsland.org">JProut@CityofBlueIsland.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mark Miller</td>
<td>Blue Island</td>
<td><a href="mailto:MMiller@CityofBlueIsland.org">MMiller@CityofBlueIsland.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bob Manthei</td>
<td>Blue Island</td>
<td><a href="mailto:RManthei@BlueIslandParks.org">RManthei@BlueIslandParks.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sherry Williams</td>
<td>Bronzeville</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sherry@bronzevillehistoricalsociety.com">sherry@bronzevillehistoricalsociety.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mollie Dowling</td>
<td>OAI, Inc</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mdowling@oaiinc.org">mdowling@oaiinc.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leslie Phemister</td>
<td>Active Trans</td>
<td><a href="mailto:leslie@activetrans.org">leslie@activetrans.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dan Barr</td>
<td>Country Club Hills</td>
<td><a href="mailto:dbarr@countryclubhills.org">dbarr@countryclubhills.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steve Buchtel</td>
<td>Trails for Illinois</td>
<td><a href="mailto:steve@trailsforillinois.org">steve@trailsforillinois.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tyrone Haymore</td>
<td>Robbins</td>
<td><a href="mailto:tyronehaymore@yahoo.com">tyronehaymore@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Thompson</td>
<td>Markham</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jthompson@cityofmarkham.net">jthompson@cityofmarkham.net</a></td>
</tr>
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Midlothian Creek Green Infrastructure Plan
Natural Resource Experts Workshop Agenda
February 25, 2013
10:00 to 1:00

I. Introduction
   a. Project Overview
   b. Map Progression
   c. Participants

II. Map Review
   a. Projects
   b. Prioritization
      i. Regional
      ii. Local

III. Next Steps
   a. Partnerships
   b. Report Structure
   c. Implementation and Funding
   d. Blue Island Green Infrastructure Examples
Midlothian Creek SWAT Public Meeting

February 25, 2013

Attendees: Dennis Latto (SSMMA), Nancy Williamson (IDNR), Eric Neagu (WeaverBoos), Mark Bouman (The Field Museum), Mary Poulsen (Blue Island), Jason Berry (Blue Island), Mark Miller (Blue Island), Jodi Prout (Blue Island), Karen Kreis (Midlothian), Stan Barwock (Posen), Donald Schupock (Posen), Nicholas Crite (Blue Island) John Walsh (MWRD)

Project Intro and Review: Mark B.

Funding Possibilities: Nancy – DNR, IGIG, DCEO, Ill. Finance Authority, Cook County, USEPA, Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation, MPC, CNT

Eric: What we need to know: Problem areas (flooding, crumbling, failing), Opportunity areas: trails, parks, brownfields, planned project, economic development, infrastructure goals, connections

Questions:

Should municipal boundaries stay on?

- Map should go at least to 119th St. to include Blue Island neighborhood GI project and Vincennes Ave. and (other business development project name?)
- Boundaries important to see what resources communities can bring to table. But we need to think regionally. IGA (or resolution of support) is a good idea.

Drop the 500 Year Flood Plain?

- Midlothian just doesn’t flood
- MWRD doesn’t think about it much. Models they use aren’t for floodplain mapping but ISWS asked them for their data. ISWS is trying to figure out how to put floodways on map. Using unsteady state models. This is under review now. Can’t issue letter of map revision without an agreement with DNR. What would be ideal would be for FEMA to use MWRD stuff; but that will take a long time. To move quickly, use currently effective models to get the maps revised. (If there’s anything MWRD could do to expedite it, they’d do it – it’s causing them headaches.)
- Is the thought that GI would reduce floodplains? No. Process has surfaced this map dispute. Process does want to try to reduce impact of extreme flood events.
- No compelling reason to keep it on. (Hospitals and other critical infrastructure affected by 500 year.)

How do communities prioritize trail projects? Intercommunity or intracommunity?

- A: Midlothian priority areas (integrates with TOD plan)
- Trails are great. A coordinated approach would be good.
- Biggest challenge to Midlothian Creek trail would be Metra right of way.
• We looked at S. Suburban bike plan (ATA did it in 2011/2012).
• View from Metra Rail line important – current view shows garbage, debris; view from 294/57 also important.
• D: Posen: Gateway community treatment with flood mitigation.
• IGAs!: Trails, transportation, flooding. SSMMA could draft.

How would they use the report?

• Maps and report. Don’t let it collect dust.
• Meet w/district? Meet w/transport planners. (Including SSMMA and SW trans planners)
• How to get IDOT to the table 5-10 years in advance?
• Make an economic development case for things
• Who maintains this stuff?
• Maps helpful but not necessarily for community engagement purposes – more for proposals.

Would you entertain green infrastructure ordinances?

• Could be adopted into comp plan?
• BI TOD & complete streets ordinances have GI ideas in them
• Not much enthusiasm here

Do communities want to adopt report?

Stormwater Fees?

• E.g. Downers Grove, Bloomington, Aurora, a couple communities in Indiana
• Probably wouldn’t fly very far in south suburbs
• Posen has impact fees on new development; BI and Midlo doesn’t
• MWRD will be doing Wet Weather Plans; GI will cover maybe 1-2 “; blown out by 8 inch storms
• Basement backups not really discussed so far

Comfortable with expansive green opportunity districts?

Ordinance Review/audit?

Other:

• Discussion of BI rain barrel project. 1.3m for alleys, curbs, etc.
• B: Application along Midlothian Creek. Just gravel now. IGI grant would help to install municipal parking lot with permeable surface, bioswale, etc. It’s on Village-owned property right now. Would stop water from going into Midlothian Creek (75K). What happens with runoff on this site? Don’t know. Parking lot needs to be re-done in any case.
• A: Posen: same issues – doesn’t really flood. Just had delineation study done; they’re no longer wetlands. Need dialogue about flood insurance. (Robbins has same issues.)
• ROAD ISSUES – need complete streets/green streets retrofits:
Roads called out for particular attention focusing on IDOT engagement; 139, 147, 157, Kedsie; include ongoing Vincennes retrofit work from Blue Island? OTHER?

- B: Losing homes and businesses (about 24 properties) with Tollroad. One strip mall being lost. Green infrastructure down the median of 147th. On/off ramps taking a lot of land.
- Roads throughout the region are not pedestrian friendly. This is a major point bigger than Posen.
- Tollroad needs to be on Millennium Reserve committee.
- Great opportunities with Markham/Sundrop relative to 57/294 interchange.
- Add Cal-Sag Trail layer to map.
- Streetscape plan: integrate into transportation planning process
- CDOT has undergone a planning process for green streets: trying to look at their own practices even before looking at ordinances (e.g. urban ecology islands)
- A: Oak Forest. Flooding along creek around 150th and Metra.
- B: Oak Forest. Natalie Creek.
- C: Midlothian. Midlo creek floods there.
- A: Robbins: grocery at 137th and Clare. Robbins has ITEP money to do streetscape improvement at 139th. Trouble finding a match.
- B: Robbins: floodplain issues.
- A: BI. Northeast Industrial site. COD. Commercial along 119th st. 87 undeveloped acres.
- Anything along Cal-Sag. Concepts for development. It’s an amenity. TOD at SEPA. Riverfront a priority.
- Midlo as a connecting asset.
- C: Robbins/BI. Acme expansion area. Change some road access. Landscape waste firm that might do something. Old Libby building.
- A: FPD. Boat ramps at Kickapoo.
- Kedzie could be a great bike trail.
- There could be a coordinated bike trail process with BI and Midlo (have plan) and Robbins and Posen (don’t) –
- D: BI. Midlo creek, little cal