

Taylor Run and Strawberry Run Stakeholder Collaboration Update

City Council Legislative Session

June 13, 2023



Timeline to Date

Stormwater Local Assistance Fund (SLAF) grant applications

Design work continued

Council directed staff to pause, perform more testing, and collaborate on alternatives to the original natural channel design

May 2019: SLAF Awards

Sep. 2020 – Mar. 2021: Restart Outreach

13 June 2023: Update

Fall 2018: Grant Applications

March 2020: COVID

27 Apr. 2021: Pause

Awarded \$800,000 for Strawberry Run and \$2,255,000 for Taylor Run

Begin design

Online public engagement
Met small 'expert group'
onsite

Revised plans in response

Conclude facilitated engagement, bring consensus recommendations to Council

Project Goals

- Enhance and protect stream health
- Enhance in-stream and downstream water quality
- Reduce the in-stream erosion, repair erosion, and stabilize
- Stabilize and protect exposed sanitary sewer infrastructure (Taylor Run)



Phase 1 Facilitated Engagement: Stakeholder Interviews



Goal: Conduct interviews to capture concerns, hopes, and suggestions to protect the streams and to determine form of further engagement



Facilitator: Institute for Engagement and Negotiation (IEN) as third party



Stakeholder Advisory Group (SAG): formed by IEN and conducted interviews of Environmental Policy Commission (EPC) members, community, staff, and civic associations



Report: Stakeholder Assessment Report for Two Stream Health Improvement Projects in the City of Alexandria (May 2022)



Findings: Original design not acceptable, create a minimalistic approach, expand transparent community engagement, maintain infrastructure but protect the stream habitat



Phase 2 Facilitated Engagement: Consensus Building Groups (CBGs)



Goal: IEN facilitate community engagement to reach consensus on alternative design approach



Public Meeting Kickoff: September 10, 2022; City Manager, community, consultants, City staff; formed CBGs



CBGs: met through April 2023; alternatives included bioengineering, hard armoring, a minimal approach, and a large wood approach; cost estimates and tree impact estimates



Report: City of Alexandria Stream Improvement Project Process and Outcomes: Taylor Run and Strawberry Run (April 2023)



Taylor Run Key Consensus Recommendations

- Construction practices: Infrastructure protection work to have a minimal impact on wetlands and key forest communities
- Design review and construction: CBG and community input during design process at 30%, 60%, 90%, 100% and construction
- Inflow culvert/sewer crossings/manhole: Stone covering for inflow culvert, remove concrete debris, stabilize exposed sanitary manhole, stabilize the two sewer crossings
- Post-work restoration: Design and implementation to include stakeholder and community input for replanting



Strawberry Run Key Consensus Recommendations

- Overarching: To the extent the work is deemed necessary, apply the 'large wood' option presented by Dr. Field and include him in the design process
- Ongoing engagement: CBG and community input during design (30%, 60%, 90%, 100%)
 and construction
- Equipment and access roads: Keep length and width to absolute minimum and protect tree roots
- Protection of trees: Identify with community and certified arborist; pruning considered in lieu of removal
- Practical and beneficial removal of concrete and rip rap: Remove within work areas, including in by private properties
- Property bank erosion: investigate stabilization options with stakeholders to improve downstream water quality, contingent on private property owners support and access

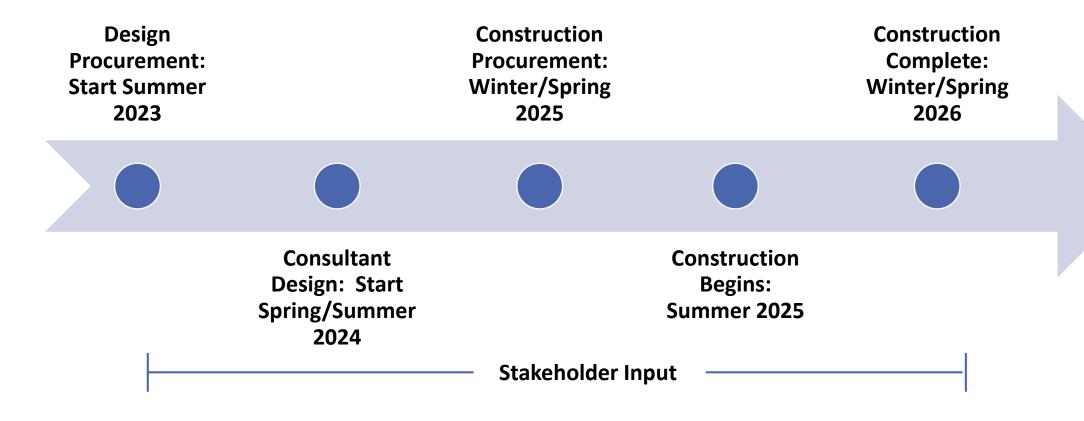


Fiscal Impact

- Taylor Run: Rough cost estimate of \$2M total, with \$1.5M currently budgeted
- Strawberry Run: Rough cost estimate of \$1.2M, with \$500,000 currently budgeted
- Path Forward if Council recommends staff proceed
 - Start design with current project funding
 - Engineering cost estimates to be developed based on design and extent of scope
 - Supplement funding for Taylor Run through use of Sanitary funds
- Consensus alternatives not eligible for a future water quality grant



Alternative Design and Construction Timeline





Staff Recommendation

• That Council support the recommendations from the community Consensus Building Groups to stabilize portions of Taylor Run and Strawberry Run and incorporate the alternatives to the original natural channel design approach where feasible.