

Bringing Green Infrastructure to Vacant Lots in the Cody Rouge Neighborhood in 2015

Project Overview

What is green infrastructure?

Green infrastructure is an approach to managing storm water that uses the natural processes of soils and plants to soak up storm water where it falls before it can enter and overwhelm the sewer system. DWSD is working with partners throughout Detroit to install a variety of green infrastructure practices, including bioretention, pervious pavement, rain gardens, and tree planting.

What type of green infrastructure will DWSD and partners use in the Cody Rouge neighborhood?

DWSD is planning to construct bioretention flower gardens in the Cody Rouge neighborhood during summer 2015. The design and installation of the bioretention flower gardens was paid for by DWSD and the University of Michigan Water Center, part of the Graham Sustainability Institute, with funds from the Fred A. and Barbara M. Erb Family Foundation and the University of Michigan.

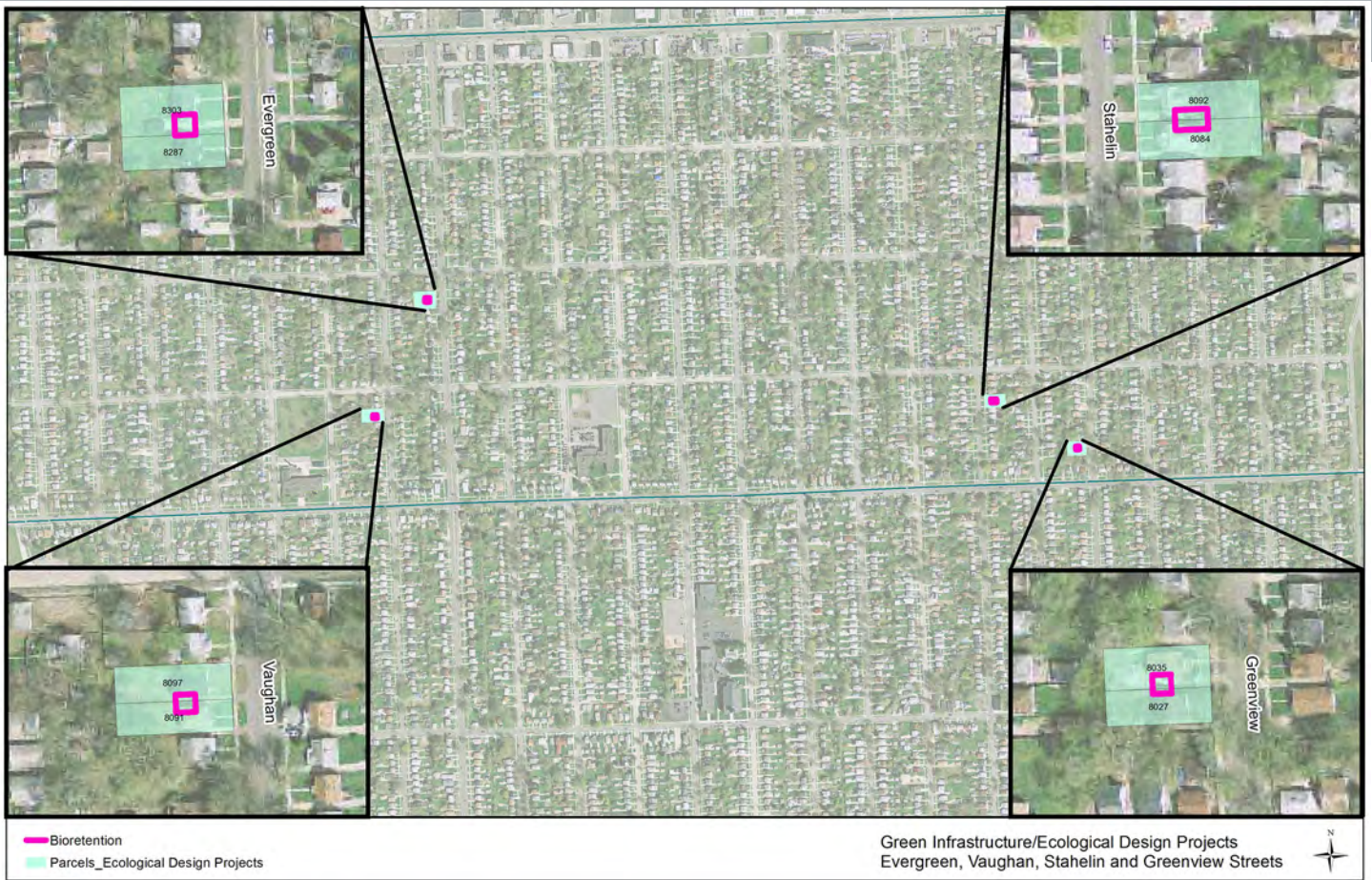
On the outside, these bioretention flower gardens will look like regular gardens containing flowers and shrubs. However, the bioretention flower gardens are different from regular gardens because of their special design. Bioretention flower gardens can help to reduce ponding and flooding on streets, as well as help to beautify the neighborhood.

This fact sheet provides details on the Green Infrastructure projects for four vacant lots in the Cody Rouge neighborhood proposed by the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department (DWSD), University of Michigan Water Center, and other partners in summer 2015. As more project information becomes available, DWSD will update this fact sheet.



You might already be familiar with the bioretention flower garden designs because last winter faculty from the University of Michigan Ann Arbor, University of Michigan Dearborn, and Wayne State University, and a team of interviewers worked together to survey nearby residents for their opinions on how the new gardens might affect the neighborhood and their well-being. You may have been one of those randomly selected for the survey.





Where will the bioretention flower gardens be located in the Cody Rouge neighborhood?

Four sites are planned to be constructed in this year and each site occupies two adjacent lots.

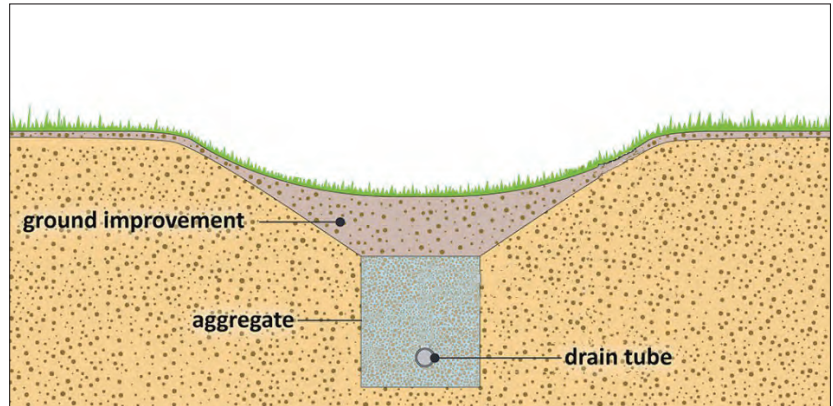
- 8287-8303 Evergreen Road
- 8084-8092 Stahelin Avenue
- 8091-8097 Vaughan Street
- 8027-8035 Greenview Avenue

What is the schedule for constructing and maintaining the bioretention flower gardens?

In late spring or early summer, construction equipment will prepare the land on the garden sites with soil that will help each garden absorb storm water. Project partners will install flowers and shrubs in each garden before July 1. After the gardens have been constructed, city contractors will come in to maintain the gardens. It's important to remember that the plants will take some time to grow. Contractors and University of Michigan and Wayne State researchers will also come in to measure the storm water in the gardens.

How do bioretention flower gardens work?

Each one is a shallow depressed area designed to capture storm water and allows it to infiltrate into the ground slowly over a 24 to 48 hour period. The top layer is a garden of small shrubs and flowers surrounded by mown turf grass. The next layer is stone that provides large empty spaces to allow the storm water to infiltrate. A perforated pipe sits below the stone to capture storm water that doesn't infiltrate. During heavy rainfall, the bioretention flower garden will fill up and then overflow back into the street and into the sewer. The existing drainage system (pipes and catch basins) will not be removed.



8084 Stahelin Avenue



8091-8097 Vaughan Street





8027 Greenview Avenue



Where can I get more information and how can I share my thoughts?

DWSD will provide updates about the bioretention flower gardens, as well as other Green Infrastructure projects, on their website (www.dwsd.org). Whenever you have questions or concerns about the bioretention flower gardens, their construction or their maintenance, please contact Dan Schechter at 313-297-6408 or dschecht@dwsd.org.

