Greening Richmond Public Libraries

Broad Rock Branch Library
Existing Conditions
Greening Richmond Public Libraries

- The James River Association is working alongside Richmond Public Libraries, RVAH2O, and Four Winds Design to design and install green infrastructure practices to manage stormwater at Broad Rock Branch, North Avenue Branch, and West End Branch this year.

- In-person and virtual design charrettes are scheduled during the month of July 2020 to solicit feedback on green infrastructure practices that could be implemented at Broad Rock Branch, North Avenue Branch, and West End Branch.
What is **Stormwater Pollution**?

- Did you know stormwater is a threat to the health of the James River and its tributaries?
- When rain falls on an impervious surfaces, such as roads or sidewalks, it becomes stormwater.
- If stormwater picks up pollutants such as dirt, nutrients from lawn fertilizer, bacteria from pet waste, or toxics like oil from cars as it flows across an impervious surface, it becomes **stormwater pollution**.
What is **Green Infrastructure**?

- **Green infrastructure** practices include rain gardens, street trees, and conservation landscaping that enhance our built environment for the benefit of humans and the ecosystem of which we are a part.
- **Green infrastructure** contributes to healthier communities by absorbing stormwater before it enters our rivers and streams, improving air quality, and reducing the urban heat island effect.
- It also provides habitat for wildlife living among us.
Applicable **Green Infrastructure** Practices

- Street trees
- Conservation landscaping
- Bioretention areas / rain gardens
Existing Conditions - Parking Area
Existing Conditions - Main Entrance
Existing Conditions - Main Entrance
Existing Conditions - Warwick Road
Existing Conditions - Zinnias and Sunflowers
Existing Conditions - Warwick Road Entrance
Existing Conditions - Warwick Road Entrance
Existing Conditions - Broad Rock Boulevard
Existing Conditions - Old Warwick Road
Summary of Existing Conditions

- Library provides important services to residents of the 8th and 9th districts
- Library signs are obstructed by landscaping
- Main entrance to the library is not welcoming
- Existing trees on library grounds provide some shade and present an opportunity for the creation of a seating area near the main entrance
- Preferred bioretention area is located near the Warwick Road entrance
- Library window facing Broad Rock Boulevard presents an opportunity for a pollinator garden
- Opportunities to harvest stormwater from downspouts exist around the library
- Better maintenance of existing trees and shrubs is needed
- Vehicular traffic on Warwick Road and Broad Rock Boulevard is noisy