Greening Richmond Public Libraries
North Avenue 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

- Conservation landscaping
- Street trees
- Bioretention areas / rain gardens
Existing Conditions of North Avenue Branch Library
Existing Conditions - Parking Area
Existing Conditions - Main Entrance
Existing Conditions - Main Entrance
Existing Conditions - Main Entrance
Existing Conditions - E. Essex Street
Existing Conditions - E. Essex Street
Existing Conditions - E. Essex Street
Existing Conditions - North Avenue/E. Essex Street
Existing Conditions - North Avenue
Native, Non-Native, and Invasive Plants

● Native plants are preferred as they are adapted to thrive in our area and provide food and habitat for wildlife, such as insects and birds.

● Non-native plants have little ecological value and invasive plants outcompete native plants.

● Non-native plants found on library grounds include crape myrtles, Chinese holly, Japanese barberry, liriope, nandina, and winged euonymus.
Summary of Existing Conditions

- Impervious asphalt parking area with no shade trees
- Opportunities exist for outdoor seating areas for library visitors
- Preferred location of the bioretention area is along E. Essex Street
- Library window facing E. Essex Street presents an opportunity
- Empty tree wells along North Avenue are opportunities to plant street trees
- Landscaping consists of non-native plant species