



A Century of Progress with Pride

August 26, 2016

Green Infrastructure within the City of Berwyn

Dear Residents,

Recently, at a Clean Energy Town Hall meeting, the City of Berwyn staff was able to share what they have accomplished over the last few years in regards to bringing green infrastructure to our City to combat urban flooding and improve the environment. I would like to further explain the details regarding the many projects the City has already undertaken and is planning to do in the following years.

The City has begun to partner with developers to reduce their impact on the sewer system by including site detention and volume control measures on future developments. Site detention holds storm water on site and slowly releases it into the City sewers to reduce the load placed on the system during the height of a rain event, which reduces flooding. Since 2012, the City has facilitated eleven projects (Proksa Park, Liberty Cultural Center Parking Lot, Big Hurt Brewery, Ross Dress for Less, Cermak McDonald's, Ogden McDonald's, Gateway Plaza, YMCA, Turano Bakery, 1212 Harlem, and Kia) that have underground detention and/or permeable pavers. These projects involve over 800,000 gallons of storm water that is detained and slowly released into our sewer system during every rainfall. The City plans to repave the parking lot at the Recreation Center in 2017. The City is awaiting grant monies to assist in the cost of placing a storm water detention system below this parking lot that will hold over 56,000 gallons of storm water.

Another project planned to commence in the spring of 2017 is the Depot Streetscape Project. This project will utilize green infrastructure elements that will provide 410,000 gallons of storm water storage under permeable pavers, Silva Cells and bioswale / landscaped areas.

In addition to the Depot Streetscape Project, the City has received grant funds to design and reconstruct ten alleys throughout the City that are currently impermeable (either concrete or asphalt). These alleys will be constructed with green alley pavements capable of detaining 254,000 gallons of storm water. The new green alley pavement allows storm water to infiltrate naturally into the ground while reducing pollutant concentrations and reducing flooding. Construction of these alleys is planned to begin this fall.

To date, the City has replaced 711 residential streetlights with LED light bulbs. This technology saves money through reduced energy consumption (40-80% energy savings), maintenance costs (50-75% maintenance savings), and provides brighter streets that promote safety. Portions of this project are funded through secured grant funds.

The City, through grant funds, has installed four electric vehicle charging stations. Three charging stations are located in the Municipal Parking Structure. The fourth charging station is located at 7003 West Ogden Avenue.

Outside of design and construction, the City has also utilized holistic ways of "being green". The City applied for and was selected by the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) for inclusion into their Local

Technical Assistance (LTA) grant program. Through this program, the City developed an Active Transportation Plan, a Comprehensive Plan, a Capital Improvement Plan, and a future Stormwater Management Plan. Items within the Active Transportation Plan included the adoption of a citywide bike plan, providing designated school walking routes, and policy changes to include all modes of transportation. These “green modes” of transportation have been further developed and considered for construction in future plans to promote green and healthy living, such as the construction of pedestrian and bicycle facilities. These types of projects are included in the City’s Comprehensive and Capital Improvement Plans, also developed through the LTA grant. With the assistance of the LTA grant, the City will be able to enhance its Storm water Management Plan, which will further identify locations and types of green infrastructure that will be most beneficial to the City. Staff will prepare ordinance changes that will integrate green infrastructure design into future site development and construction projects.

I am fortunate to have staff that constantly researches and identifies new technologies and grant opportunities that promote green infrastructure within the City of Berwyn.

Respectfully,



Robert J. Lovero
Mayor

