



Walkable Watersheds

Equitable Collaboration & Community Engagement

James River Watershed, Virginia

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Walkable Watershed Approach

*A Walkable Watershed integrates the flow of **water** and **people** into a cohesive strategy to improve the overall health of a community and the surrounding watershed.*

1



Build a Team

Bring stakeholders together to guide and support the plan.

2



Develop Shared Understanding

Engage the community, planning experts and resource partners to develop a shared understanding of community needs and watershed issues.

3



Develop Solutions

Develop a shared vision and set of prioritized strategies across the neighborhood.

4



Implement and Maintain Momentum

The outcome is a watershed concept plan that helps to guide, coordinate and leverage investment in a community over time



Bellemeade Walkable Watershed Plan

Richmond, VA

Challenge: It takes a long time!

- Walkable Watershed Plan 2011-2012
- Green Street
 - Concept Plan 2016-2017
 - Engineered Designs 2019-2020
 - Construction 2021

MINEFEE STREET CONCEPT DIAGRAM



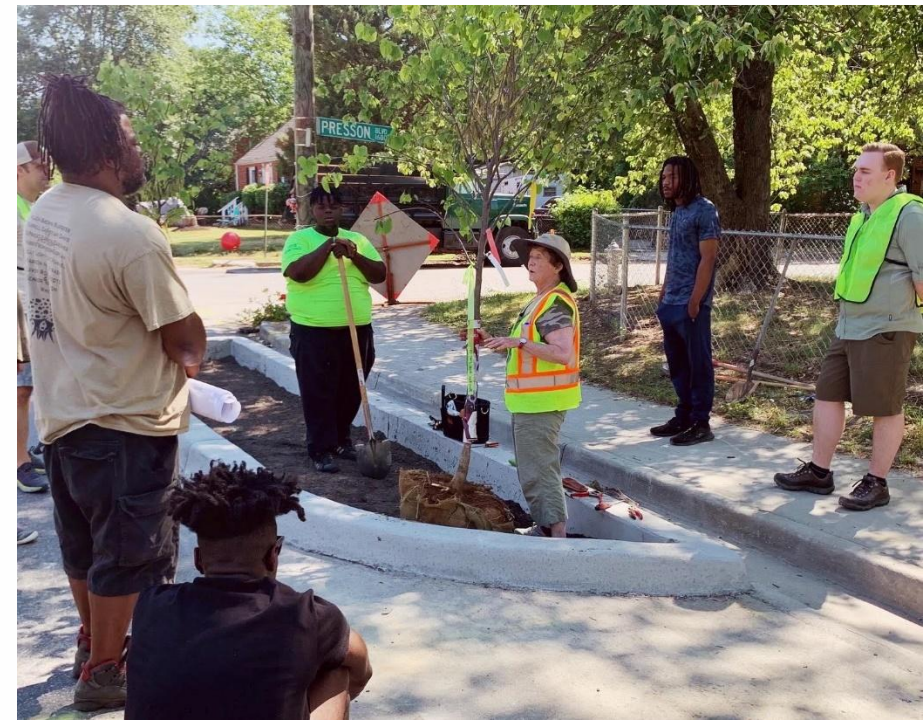
Bellemeade Walkable Watershed Plan

Richmond, VA

Solution

Support local orgs through mentorship

- 1 – Included in RFP and agreement with contractor
- 2 – Sessions informed by expressed needs
 - Reading a Plan + Creating Maintenance Schedule
 - Install Tips
 - Bed + Tree Maintenance
 - Filterra and Bioretention Maintenance
- 3 – Connecting to network of landscape professionals



Quote from Rob Jones at



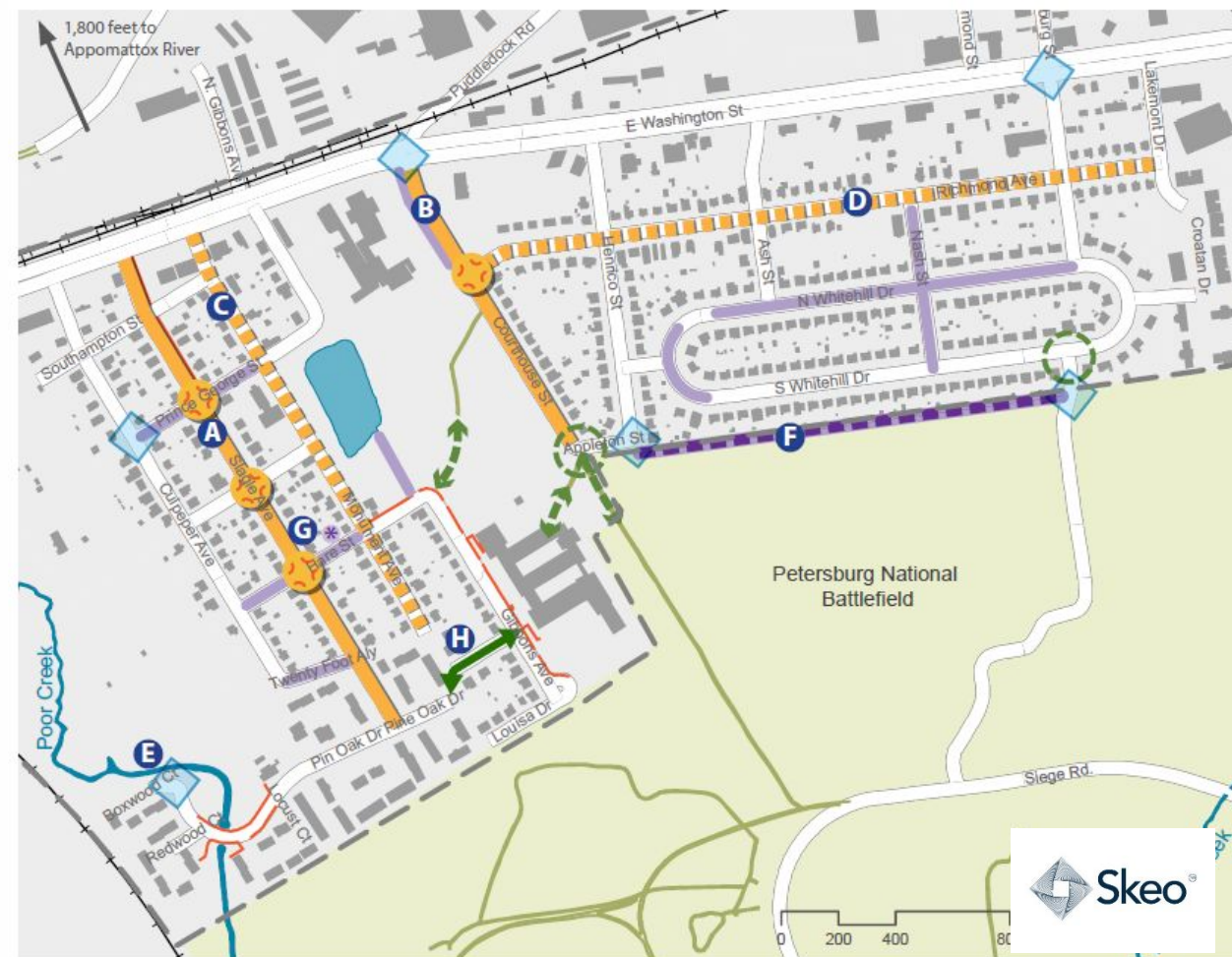
“Our partnership with the James River Association on the Minefee Green Street, is an important step towards helping young men and women, many of whom live in South Richmond “earn while they learn.” Our Green Workforce will have the opportunity to be side-by-side as the project proceeds, from the ground-up! Learning to do work that is not only vital for our communities today but that contributes to the survival of future generations, especially as we tackle climate change. Healthy communities need healthy people – physically, emotionally and economically ” said Jones. “We appreciate JRA’s stepping up to help us create a full-spectrum learning opportunity for our young people and look forward to many other projects to come.”

Lakemont Walkable Watershed Plan

Petersburg, VA

Challenge: Managing expectations

- Funding mechanisms and sources
- Knowledge around solutions
- Design and construction process



Lakemont Walkable Watershed Plan

Petersburg, VA

Solution

Resident on Project Team

- Engaged in decision making
- Language and resources to use with decision makers
- Trust of community members
- Solutions that respond to community need



Quote from Mr. Williams of Lakemont Neighborhood

“This project is a long time coming,” said Mr. Robinette Williams, a resident of the neighborhood and president of the Lakemont Neighborhood Watch Group. “It was developed to absorb water and resolve flooding along Slagle Avenue. We are hopeful that it won’t impact the area too much but will move the water underground as it should be.”



Environmental Justice Meeting held by
Congressman McEachin

Lessons Learned



1. You're gonna get it wrong sometimes
2. Action informed by listening
3. Don't let that plan sit on the shelf

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