

Cane Run Watershed Council Meeting

Monday, March 26, 2012

Northside Public Library, Lexington, KY

Charlie Denham
Frank Whitehouse
Elizabeth Mortenson
Sarah Gracey
Ernest Collins
Sarah Wightman
Bill Varble
Tom Blues
Russ Turpin
Amanda Gumbert
Susan Byars
Beth Finzer
Cindy King
Jennifer Myatt

Project Update (UK)

- New Cane Run Watershed Project brochures have been updated and printed and are available if you'd like them for distribution.
 - Are there any at Scott County Conservation? Cindy may have them, but maybe not.
 - Are any available online? In the future they will be available on the new Cane Run website.
 - Lexmark can print brochures if we buy paper and add "Printed courtesy of Lexmark" to the back. Contact John Gagel for more information.
- The Cane Run Watershed Project website is being updated right now. The website is also being moved to a different server to ensure future access and more frequent updating.
 - The website contains basic information about the watershed, the project, what we've done, etc.
 - More pictures will be added.
- Stevie Moore received an EcoArt Grant from LFUCG to create a mural focusing on the wildlife in the local area and watershed. The mural will be located on North Limestone, near the Loudon intersection, on KU property, on a fence. He would like to see the creek nearby for inspiration, but the channel isn't visible nearby. Amanda has pointed him to an area where it is visible near Broadway and New Circle. He will let Amanda know about the opening when a date is set.
- Implementation
 - Kentucky Horse Park
 - Carmen Agouridis's students are finishing a proposal that will deal with stormwater issues at the Kentucky Horse Park (KHP) on Nina Bonnie Lane, on a large gravel lot near the stall barns. Manure and straw runs off in this area during storm events. The project may include sediment settling ponds or weep berms (a BMP that involves burying wood chips in a ditch so that when water leaches through, it is treated). Installation is planned for this summer.

- Stream restoration/riparian buffer installation is planned to continue at the Horse Park. We have a design with EcoGro and need to ensure cooperation with a new manager.
 - Current buffer: KHP will clear out stalks from last summer, and it will keep growing.
 - KHP would like more work near the pond to stabilize the banks.
- UK North Farm
 - 15 trees were recently planted on the farm near the Legacy Trail and highway. These trees are meant to provide shade for horses in the adjacent paddocks.
 - Riparian buffers on the farm: The entire stretch of the Cane Run that runs through the farm should have 50 foot buffers. For the most part, this is already in place, but there is one section that currently does not have a buffer, and Steve is working to fix that. So far, Steve has been successful with getting buffers throughout the farm.
- Reforest the Bluegrass (RTB) will be along the Cane Run and the Legacy Trail this year near the Spindletop Spur along the trail.
 - There is some discussion about doing more planting along the Legacy Trail in the future; however there are logistical problems with parking and walking to the tree planting location.
 - The event is April 14th from 9am-1pm.
 - Will there be a problem with local stakeholders not being present? Without a large neighborhood presence? The first RTB was at Coldstream along the Cane Run, and many people attended.

Other/Misc.

- Cane Run Cleanup at Lexmark on April 19th (Thursday) from 9am until an undetermined time. Anyone is welcome for any amount of time, but the majority of the attendees will be Lexmark employees.
 - Can invitation be extended to students? Yes, the more the merrier!
 - Where will the check-in station be? Not sure yet, but maybe by the Legacy Trail bridge.
- Will there be any Robinson Scholars work this year? Not this summer.
- Student volunteers have contacted Amanda wanting weekly cleanup work. She has suggested the following locations, but if you know of any locations that need a clean-up and are available on Saturdays, let Amanda know, and she will point students your way.
 - Green Acres
 - LaSalle and Hollow Creek
 - Paddock Apartments at the corner of Hollow Creek
- Lexmark received a Class B incentive grant from LFUCG.
 - The grant covers the first piece (feasibility study) of what could be a large project.
 - Floatables capture
 - UK grad students researching this possibility.
 - Rainwater harvesting for use in the boilers
 - Eliminating impervious surfaces and replacing with pervious pavement
 - Exploring a WLEX partnership

- WLEX owns 11 acres on the opposite side on Loudon that is dense with honeysuckle
- WLEX is eager to work with Lexmark because of honeysuckle and homeless issues.

Sanitary Sewers Remedial Measures Plan (Amanda)

- Presented by LFUCG in a February 27th meeting at the Northside Library. Presentation available at: <http://lexingtonky.gov/modules/ShowDocument.aspx?documentid=19454>
- The measures are designed for a 2 year, 24 hour storm event (3.2 inches in 24 hour period)
- LFUCG has identified 18 sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs) in Cane Run. Most of these are manholes that regularly overflow. The remedial measures are focused on eliminating those overflows.
- Along with line replacement (68,300 ft. of pipe) LFUCG has proposed two storage tanks.
 - Lexmark (800,000 gallons)
 - At the time of the presentation, Lexmark was unaware of this proposed storage tank. Charlie Martin then met with Lexmark and discussed a possible trade for stream restoration in exchange for storage tank placement.
 - Coldstream Park (9.5 gallons)
- Total cost for remediation in Cane Run is \$74 million.
- The plan for Group 2 (which includes Cane Run) goes to EPA by April 2012. EPA will probably respond after October 2012, once all group plans are in.
- Green Acres Sewer Remediation
 - Green Acres project includes sanitary sewer funds (According to Charlie Martin via Frank).
 - Treatment units will be under construction this spring on two main tributaries in Green Acres Park (the tributary near Kirk Ct. and the tributary that comes underneath LaSalle, near the baseball field in Green Acres Park).

Feasibility Study (Russ)

- EcoGro has been awarded an LFUCG Stormwater Quality Incentive Grant to assess opportunities to improve water quality in the North Limestone area of Lexington.
 - So far, EcoGro has met with landowners (residences, small businesses, mixed use) and given them ideas of what they can do to improve stormwater and possibly apply for LFUCG grants in the future.
 - There has been a neighborhood meeting to sell rain barrels, which was a success. The neighborhood association had a grant for rain barrels, so they held the meeting. Bluegrass Pride has had a lot of success with rain barrel workshops in the past, so there seems to be growing interest in that area.
 - Workshops in the next couple months
 - Rain gardens
 - BMP tour around North Limestone area
 - There is nothing finalized for site assessments yet, and everything is still in draft form and in concept, but on its way.

Spindletop Neighborhood Update (Charlie)

- The neighborhood is conducting a cleanup on the unnamed tributary in the neighborhood.

- The association has applied for a LFUCG neighborhood grant that would provide a solar-powered aerator and work on the dam.

Education and Outreach Plans (Group discussion)

- We have had 2 watershed festivals in the past 2 years. Maybe not the best use of our time and resources? Other types of events?
 - Small neighborhood gatherings/ice cream social type gatherings in cooperation with neighborhood associations
 - General watershed information
 - What is a watershed? What watershed are we in?
 - Make them aware of the problem so they want to fix it
 - Have photos of the bad, show why it's bad, and give examples of projects that change things for the better and explain the positive impact
 - Possible topics
 - Soil testing
 - Riparian buffers
 - Waste oil
 - Fats, oils, and greases
 - Neighborhood associations are dying for content
 - Topics specific to the neighborhoods
 - Let them choose topics, or let them know what we have available
 - As a result, more neighborhoods would want to apply for grants
 - How many neighborhood associations are in Cane Run?
 - 15-20-25?
 - Are they all active?
 - Ken Cooke and Amanda have a list
 - Green Acres and Joyland used to be active
 - Target efforts near SSO, as the people in those areas have focused on those issues in the past.
 - Are we depending too much on neighborhood associations?
 - Many young people are not involved with theirs or the associations are not active. We might be missing people if we depend only on these groups.
 - Maybe YMCAs? Neighborhood churches?
 - Watershed tour
 - Community garden tour
 - YMCA starting a garden
 - David Kinkaid is the contact at the YMCA (garden, composting, rain barrels, etc.)
 - Contaminated soils?
 - Host a movie night
 - Sell drinks and snacks
 - Project movie on the Loudon House
- Number of events?

- Time is limited for some of us this summer
 - 2 small ones? And then progress through the summer, see what else can be done?
- In Castlewood, there have been tree planting events, and there is a general interest in improving the neighborhood.
 - If you can tie cleaning up the environment to crime reduction, people would be interested
 - Some people are motivated, but neighborhood improvement as a whole is a big concern.
- At the Castlewood festival, participants did still go to seminars and followed up with interest in rain barrels. Maybe plan a field day with rain barrels, etc. Make the events interactive. YMCA could send information via their mailing list, schools, churches, etc. to follow up with information from the festival.
- What if we combined the short workshop idea with a watershed tour to make a sort of traveling watershed festival? Late afternoon? Saturday? Travel from place to place, stay there for an hour or hour and a half. Tackle a different subject at each place and include door prizes. Some are activities, some are presentations. Have a radio station follow us around?
 - Seems chaotic and that it involves a lot of logistics?
 - Watershed treasure hunt/geocache?
 - Passport, with stamps at each location
 - On the Legacy Trail? It is near the creek, near the YMCA
 - No 5ks on the Legacy Trail!
 - Flash mob watershed festival
 - Market it as crazy and fun
 - Water gun fight
 - Gallery hops at Loudon House, time unveiling of mural with gallery hop or events at Als
- The YMCA is a good place to start with a parent's night after day camp, from 6pm-8pm.
 - Do something for the adults and kids when they're picking up their kids
 - Advertising and targeting ahead of time, along with a sign-up sheet so we know how many to expect
 - Tying into the existing infrastructure would not require T-shirts or tents
 - Rain barrels: Install at YMCA and/or take home, painting and constructing.
 - Give away native seeds instead of t-shirts.
 - Seed bomb workshop?
 - Program in the morning or night? Food at night, no food in morning. But most parents work, so morning may not be ideal.
 - Use mailing list to recruit other parents and kids.
 - Elizabeth will work with Amanda to begin a conversation with David at YMCA.

Next Meeting

- Cookout at Shadybrook at Lexmark
- June 4th, 6pm – 8pm