

November 2003 SEEDS meeting minutes

All members introduced

Speakers:

Vicki Collins, engineering student

Kevin Kirsche, employed by UGA Architects, MLA student

First Topic: New Parking lot at Baxter Street and Newton Street next to Tanyard Creek. The original parking lot program called for 120 spaces on the property, which would have required increased impervious pavement and storm water runoff into Tanyard Creek. Kevin & Vicki approached UGA and proposed a more sustainable alternative. The revised plan based on Kevin & Vicki's recommendations accommodate 90 parking spaces and will result in zero additional input of storm water runoff into Tanyard Creek. The plan minimizes asphalt by using 90% porous pavement and treating storm water onsite via a biofiltration system. The biofiltration cells, or rain gardens, will hold 30 minutes of a 25-year storm. UGA has been very receptive and supportive in spite of the increased costs. This project would make an excellent research project for students interested in storm water management (monitoring wells will be installed). Contact Vicki Collins in engineering or Kevin Kirsche at Campus Architects for more information.

Next Topic: Lumpkin Street Improvements. The city began seriously looking at the storm water flooding in May 2002. The planned improvements are a joint venture between UGA and Athens Clarke County. The design criterion for the project was to handle the first flush of a storm or 1.2 inches, which accounts for 85% of all annual storms. The team engineered the soil profile to slow and temporarily hold the water onsite to increase groundwater recharge. This plan combines conventional storm water treatment (inlets & culverts) and biofiltration cells or rain gardens, which will occur in specified areas along Lumpkin Street. Lumpkin Street become a two-lane road with a center turning lane and bike lanes on both sides. Phase 1 will begin on the south end of Lumpkin and will start in March 2004. Phase 2 will begin in January 2005.

Other topics discussed:

Reseed with SEEDS: We discussed two possible sites for our restoration project, funded by the local chapter of the Sierra Club. We decided to restore an eroding site at the south east corner of South Milledge Avenue and Will Hunter Road (across the street from the soccer-softball complex) because of its immediate danger to the Oconee River watershed and because it is adjacent to a meadow, with source populations of seeds. We will reseed approximately 2000 square feet with native grasses. We will meet on November 15th at 10:00 a.m. at the site – the restoration should take approx. 2-3 hours, depending on the number of volunteers.

Tim Carter's Green Roof—need to have another meeting to brain storm on signage for the project.

Conference? Do we want to host another one? Hank Methvin would like it to perhaps be co-hosted by another University (Georgia Tech?) and the community.

Christmas party planned for Monday December 8th at Courtney's house. Details to follow.