City of Ann Arbor Stormwater Comprehensive Plan

Focus Group Meeting with Businesses & Commercial Developers

November 18, 2025

Attendance: 6 Attendees / 4 City Staff / 2 Consultant Staff

Business & Commercial Developers: Kyler Sheerin, Tom Stulberg, Carl Gergits, Greg Copp, Andy Andre, and Scott Schmunk

City Staff: Jennifer Lawson, Skye Stewart, Peter Stephens, and Jasmine Isaac-Ofori

Consultant Staff: Don Carpenter and Jenna Troppman

Meeting Overview

The City convened this focus group to gather feedback from business and commercial stakeholders to inform the Comprehensive Stormwater Management Plan. Discussion focused on stormwater challenges, regulatory considerations, maintenance, and resiliency strategies.

General Comments

- Participants described flooding as short-term, event-based water accumulation that disrupts operations or causes damage. Some temporary ponding in parking lots or roadways were considered acceptable if predictable, well-communicated, and non-disruptive.
- Stakeholders emphasized the importance of clear, consistent regulatory expectations. Early and proactive communication from the City, particularly during project concept review, was identified as critical. Equity was discussed as managing stormwater close to where it falls and avoiding downstream impacts, while recognizing that needs vary by location.
- Participants noted a need for clearer guidance on long-term maintenance expectations and more proactive, preventative approaches. Improved understanding of system performance over time was also identified as an opportunity.
- Cost, risk reduction, and proven success were key motivators for adopting nature-based solutions. Incentives and demonstrated case studies were preferred over mandates to encourage broader implementation.

Next Steps

- City staff will incorporate stakeholder input into the Comprehensive Stormwater Management Plan.
- Opportunities to improve communication, share case studies, and clarify expectations will be explored.
- Participants are encouraged to stay engaged through City updates and future outreach opportunities.