City of Ann Arbor Stormwater Comprehensive Plan

Focus Group Meeting with Neighborhood Associations

October 30, 2025

Attendance: 8 Neighborhood Associations / 4 City Staff / 2 Consultant Staff

Neighborhood Associations: Broadway Area, Forest, Kensington/Marlborough, Old West Side, Orchard Hills Maplewood, Walden Village, Water Hill, and Wood Creek

City Staff: Jennifer Lawson, Miekyn Cotton, Jasmine Isaac-Ofori, and Katie Dillon

Consultant Staff: Donn Carpenter, Jenna Troppman

Meeting Overview

The City convened this focus group to gather input from neighborhood associations to inform the Comprehensive Stormwater Management Plan. Discussion focused on flooding and standing water concerns, impacts of new development, regulatory clarity and enforcement, maintenance responsibilities, costs, and the role of trees and nature-based stormwater solutions.

General Comments

- Many residents are concerned about flooding and standing water, especially when it causes damage or does not drain within a reasonable amount of time.
- Flooding was generally defined as standing water that causes damage or significant inconvenience; temporary ponding is acceptable if it does not result in lasting damage.
- There is significant concern that new development may be increasing flooding in some neighborhoods and that stormwater systems may not be keeping up with growth.
- Residents want stronger oversight and enforcement to ensure developers follow stormwater requirements.
- There were concerns about impervious surface stormwater requirements and stormwater performance monitorization, including how they apply to homeowners and developers.
- Costs related to stormwater management and potential fee increases are an important concern for homeowners.
- Participants value large, mature trees and expressed interest in stronger tree protections due to their role in managing stormwater.

- Many homeowners are uncertain about stormwater rules, private infrastructure responsibilities, and the role of homeowners associations (HOAs).
- Standing water and mosquito activity are public health concerns, with interest in reducing reliance on pesticides.
- Residents are generally aware of nature-based solutions but want clearer guidance, incentives, and maintenance support.

Next Steps

- Feedback from this discussion will guide future stormwater planning, outreach, and investment decisions, with a focus on transparency, education, and collaboration to manage flooding risks and protect neighborhoods.
- The City will continue to improve communication, support homeowners, hold developers accountable, and invest in stormwater solutions that benefit the entire community.
- Residents want clear guidance on maintenance responsibilities and simple ways to alert the City when issues arise.