



# The City of Harrisonburg, Virginia

OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT  
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STREET MAINTENANCE  
TRAFFIC ENGINEERING  
TRANSPORTATION PLANNING  
REFUSE/ RECYCLING  
RESOURCE RECOVERY  
CENTRAL STORES  
STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

TO: Eric D. Campbell, City Manager  
FROM: Thomas Hartman, PE, Director of Public Works  
DATE: May 30, 2019  
RE: Harrisonburg Conservation Assistance Program

**Summary:** The Public Works Department is expanding its current stormwater management program to include the Harrisonburg Conservation Assistance Program. This new program provides opportunities for small water quality projects to be implemented throughout the City and gives private property owners additional options for the management of drainage concerns.

**Background:** The stormwater management program uses funds from the Stormwater Utility Fee to meet the Chesapeake Bay and Local TMDL pollution reduction requirements. Pollution reductions have been achieved through programs such as street sweeping, large engineered projects such as the Mountain View Drive Stream Restoration (in the planning stage), and nutrient credit purchases.

## **Harrisonburg Conservation Assistance Program**

The Harrisonburg Conservation Assistance Program (HCAP) is an urban-cost share program that provides financial incentives and technical and educational assistance to property owners installing eligible stormwater projects in Harrisonburg.

This program is based off the statewide Virginia Conservation Assistance Program (VCAP). Creating a local program allows for flexibility to choose the types of projects that are most beneficial for our area and creates a stable source of funding that will be used just within city limits.

Projects funded through HCAP are designed to handle stormwater runoff from smaller sites. Types of HCAP projects include:

- Rain Gardens - shallow landscaped depressions that temporarily capture stormwater runoff until it is absorbed into the ground.
- Permeable Pavement - alternative paving surfaces that allow stormwater runoff to filter through voids in the pavement surface into an underlying stone reservoir, where it is temporarily stored or infiltrated into the ground.
- Conservation Landscaping - the conversion of impervious surface or turf grass into a meadow or area with trees.

A Memorandum of Agreement outlines the partnership between the City of Harrisonburg and the Shenandoah Valley Soil and Water Conservation District (SVSWCD). The City will provide funding from the Stormwater Utility Fee and the SVSWCD will administer the program.

Following this presentation, outreach about the program will begin. Applications for the first round of funding will be accepted from July to August.

**Key Issues:** HCAP provides opportunities to address drainage concerns on private property as well as positively impact water quality of our local streams and the Chesapeake Bay.

**Environmental Impact:** Positive impacts are anticipated. All practices will provide water quality improvements and some degree of drainage improvements. Some practices provide pollinator habitat.

**Fiscal Impact:** \$100,000 from the Stormwater Utility Fee

**Prior Actions:** The SVSWCD has been running the VCAP program since 2016. Some projects in the City of Harrisonburg were funded through the VCAP program. Charlottesville has a similar local program based off of VCAP.

**Alternatives:** The alternative would be to not fund the HCAP program. Private property owners would be able to apply for projects through the statewide VCAP program and compete with other applicants throughout the state. Funding for the VCAP program has been unstable since its conception. There is potential that projects completed in the City through the VCAP program could not be used by the City to meet the Chesapeake Bay pollution reduction requirements.

**Community Engagement:** Following the Council presentation, city staff will begin public outreach.

**Recommendation:** None.

**Attachments:** Council Presentation, HCAP Manual, Project Ranking, Memorandum of Agreement

**Review:**

*The initiating Department Director will place in Legistar, in sequence of transmittal, the names of each department that must initial their review in order for this item to be placed on the City Council agenda. The completion of review only addresses the readiness of the issue for Council consideration. This does not address the recommendation for approval or denial of the issue.*