



City of Bowie

Memorandum

Thursday, December 7, 2023
Alfred D. Lott, ICMA-CM, CPM,
City Manager

STATUS REPORT

1. Capital Region Transportation Forum

On November 30th, top transportation leaders from Maryland, D.C., and Virginia came together at Georgetown University to discuss key opportunities and challenges facing our regional transportation system. One major takeaway from the forum was that WMATA's transit system could see service cuts as soon as spring if the agency is not able to close the \$750 million dollar gap in next year's budget. Last month, Metro posted plans for how it could make up the financial shortfall. In a worst-case scenario, Metro says it could cut more than 60% of its service, such as eliminating as many as 95 of its 134 bus routes and bumping wait times between trains from 6 to 12 minutes, up to 20 to 30 minutes.

2. Information Technology – Firewall Maintenance Renewal

The FY24 Budget includes funding to renew the maintenance and subscriptions on the firewall appliances. The IT Department utilized the State of Maryland Hardware 2012 Master Contract (060B2490022) for renewal quotes. Requests for quotes were sent to the 19 authorized State of Maryland vendors and 1 response was received.

ePlus

\$37,159.24

As provided by Section 62 of the City Charter, this will serve as the required seven-day notice of intent to issue a purchase order to ePlus in the amount of \$37,159.24.

3. City Recertified with National Wildlife Federation

The City of Bowie has been a certified wildlife habitat by the National Wildlife Federation (NWF) since 2017. In registering as a City, we created a series of certified sites and have maintained them since with the help of staff and the Green Team. There are 3 signs throughout the City recognizing our current status: one at Allen Pond, one at Town Green Park, and one at the Kenhill Center. Residents are encouraged to turn their own yards into habitats as well, and we now have over 260 yards in the City that are individually certified. The stipulations for creating a certified habitat can be found both on the NWF site and within our Green Bowie pages. During calendar year 2023, we had many projects geared towards habitat creation and maintenance, helping us to easily recertify. The report is attached.

Activity Report For 2023

Bowie

Bowie, MD

Last Certified On 12/1/2023

Certified Since 7/31/2017

Maintain info kiosk, library or website established during certification stage

10 Points

Notes: <https://www.cityofbowie.org/919/Backyard-Habitats>
<https://www.cityofbowie.org/2759/Pollinator-Gardens> The webpages above are kept up-to-date by City staff, with input from the Bowie Green Team. We also have a monthly e-newsletter which highlights this work, especially during peak season.

Participate in a quarterly Community Wildlife Habitat conference call (up to 4)

5 Points

Notes: Our Sustainability Planner, Erin Oxenford, attended every call possible. Erin is so no longer working for the City.

Host a garden tour that features Certified Wildlife Habitat sites

10 Points

Notes: The Bowie Green Team's Natural Resources subgroup hosts clean up events and tours of their certified sites quarterly. They found it difficult to sustain one large tour, and instead have focused on a more frequent outing to the sites where volunteers can come and learn about the gardens and perform some basic maintenance tasks. There are 4 monarch waystations that are included in the tour.

Create a new demonstration garden, with educational signage. Please note: it is required that all materials created by communities that use our logos, names, weblinks, etc. Undergo an internal review process. Please complete the material review form found in the resource center or email our team at community@nwf.org.

10 Points

Notes: Our Midwood Stormwater pond planting was a huge demonstration project and undertaking this year. After soliciting council for support, we devised a plan for planting with 10 separate cells in one garden area, and an additional 5 along the pond's edge for erosion control. The plants were grown from seed over the year at different events and eventually were large enough to be used and planted. We spread mulch/chips on the area, then drilled over 1000 holes with handheld augers, then eventually held the planting day. Afterwards a lot of work still had to be done to fill in holes, water, and with general maintenance. We were able to have a partnership with the neighboring pool where they allowed their water to be used and their facilities in exchange for a small garden being planted on their property as well. This is not yet a certified habitat but it is a huge demonstration site and there will be signage put up in 2024. Below is the Status Report sent to council: Midwood Lane Stormwater Pond Pollinator Planting A Huge Success On Saturday, September 30, Councilmember Woolfley, members of the Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC), students from Prince George's Community College and Bowie High School, Girl Scout Brownie Troop 22032, and many other volunteers installed nearly 1,000 pollinator plants at the Midwood Lane stormwater pond. The aesthetics and ecological functions of this pond have been on the Council's and EAC's radar after a State-mandated retrofit left a mass of turf grass on the site. Several EAC members decided to undertake a planting day, and with 65 volunteers, it was a tremendous success! This project will hopefully inform future stormwater retrofit sites and the City's overall landscaping policy to require native pollinator plants on City-owned parcels. A huge thank you goes to every volunteer who joined us and to Council, the Stormwater Division of Public Works, Parks & Grounds staff, and the Board of Belair Swim & Racquet Club for supporting this project.

[SWpic1.jpg](#)

Work with local park agencies to convert parkland to wildlife friendly landscapes

10 Points

Notes: In 2023, staff, the Bowie Green Team, and the Environmental Advisory Committee worked together to convince our Council to support a project that took a stormwater pond and turned both an area of land up top and an area along the rim of the pond, into pollinator habitat. The goal is that this successful project would be extrapolated to the other stormwater ponds to create more habitat and help mitigate erosion. Attached is an image of the planned planting area. 1000 holes were dug with pollinator plants grown from seed being planted at a workday that had up to 50 volunteers!

[swmplantingarea9-30.jpg](#)

Educate your community about their carbon or water footprint and provide actions they can take to reduce it

10 Points

Notes: The "After the Storms" event has now been hosted twice by the Green Team's Natural Resources subgroup. This event seeks to educate residents about how to have a more pollinator friendly yard, how to maintain your yard in a natural way, what to do as

trees age, and more. Attached is the graphic for the event which was well attended with about 20 residents.

[After the Storm Fall 2023.png](#)