

**Question and Comments from Public Listening Sessions -
DC Flood Task Force**



Email info@dcfloodtaskforce.org if you have any questions.

PLS Date	Resident	Question / Concern	Agency(s) responsible	Date Responded to Resident	Response
3/28/2022	K.	Will this presentation be posted? When it floods because the storm drains aren't working fast enough, what is that called? Is there a place where projects are posted, so people know when projects are happening in their area? After work has been completed, what is done to keep these things maintained?	DOEE DC Water	3/28/2022	Responded to in the meeting, please use the link at the bottom to access the meeting minutes or watch the meeting recording.
3/28/2022	Call-in	Can you give a timeline of the projects going on in Brookland? What's the timeline of completion? There are phases, can any of it [in Brookland] be done earlier or later?	DOEE DCW	3/28/2022	Responded to in the meeting, please use the link at the bottom to access the meeting minutes or watch the meeting recording.
3/28/2022	J.	Ward 7 resident, Watts Branch watershed area. On 700 block of Anacostia Ave when there are heavy rains they get a lot of stream flooding, not sure what the solution is because there are not a lot of options in the area.	Stream Restoration Team and Stormwater Drainage	3/28/2022	Responded to in the meeting, please use the link at the bottom to access the meeting minutes or watch the meeting recording.
3/28/2022	J.B.	I'm a stormwater Contractor and District resident. The issue with all green Infrastructure in the District is poor maintenance, which is adding to the increase inland flooding issues. My property sit on nash run and in front the stream restoration installation. Also it hasn't been maintain. We need more money out there into stormwater infrastructure.	DOEE		We are sorry to hear your frustrations with the Nash Run restoration project. We'd like to know more about your specific concerns and locations that might need maintenance. Please email Josh.Burch@dc.gov with further information.
3/28/2022	J.B.	A number of neighbors with parked cars on the street are completely totaled. Neighbors aren't able to afford replacing a car. Would like to see more stormwater maintenance and catch basin management. Who is responsible for this maintenance, is it public responsibility?	DC Water	3/28/2022	Responded to in the meeting, please use the link at the bottom to access the meeting minutes or watch the meeting recording.
3/28/2022	K.	If the govt could provide resources like hay to help with the flooding, that would be helpful. Also could the govt give people \$500 to help with flood issues or at least provide long-term no interest loans to help people with the financial impacts.	DOEE		Thank you for your comment. Through the FloodSmart Homes Program, the District is working to make resilience assessments available to owners of qualifying homes at no charge. The District aims to use the results of the resilience assessments to apply for federal grants to help fund home improvements. Our intent is to cover most of the costs through FEMA grants and District funds so that there would be minimal cost to participating homeowners. The District is also working with expert partners to develop a local flood insurance program that would help address the financial burden of National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) coverage and provide rapid assistance to residents after a flood. Preliminary research is available at: https://riskcenter.wharton.upenn.edu/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/DC-NFIP-Brief.pdf
3/28/2022	M.W.	Sewer backup and sump pumps play a large role in flooding and prevention. making sure that sewers are clear and areas with sump pumps are fully operational prior to large rain events.	DC Water		Agree. Inspecting sump pumps prior to a storm is an excellent preventative measure. As are backwater valves that are required by Code for most homes with basement bathroom fixtures. Sewer cleaning of almost 2,000 miles of pipe is done on a 10 year cycle according to applicable standards. Flushing grease and wipes down the drain and inadequate maintenance of grease separators by food establishments are primary cause of reduced sewer capacity leading to backups.

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3/28/2022	B.R.	Some folks in Ward 8 are concerned about naturalizing Oxon Run stream and it's potential impact on flooding. What steps will be taken to maintain the stream once the naturalization process has been completed to prevent flooding in this floodplain?	DOEE Stream Restoration Team	3/28/2022 + additional follow up	Responded to in the meeting, please use the link at the bottom to access the meeting minutes or watch the meeting recording.
3/28/2022	J.O.	Can you discuss what happened to the expired Flood Assistance Fund Program mentioned by CM McDuffie in the past Flood and Climate Resilience hearing? Any chances of that being rekindled?	DOEE	Needs follow up	The 2012 Flood Assistance Fund was an important first step in assisting DC residents with the repair of flood damage. However, accessibility was limited to residents who experienced damage specifically from a sewer backflow event. The District is currently working with expert partners to develop a more comprehensive local flood insurance program that would help address the financial burden of National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) coverage and provide rapid assistance to residents after a flood. Updates will be provided at future Task Force meetings
3/28/2022	J.L.	The Catch basins are at 709-715 Anacostia. DC Water's catchbasins tend to get overwhelmed here. There is a sizable stormwater management system for this development, so other areas are well drained but this particular area catches water from much of the area. The Stormwater best management practice (a raingarden) I mentioned is at 679 Anacostia Ave. I think the rain garden is maintained by the HOA for that development. French drains! Reminds me of how they provide drainage to marshy farm fields where I grew up.	DC Water		If it relates to the catchbasins at 709-715 Anacostia, DC Water investigated this area and cleaned the storm pipes after receiving flooding reports. DOEE is in the process of developing an Integrated Flood Model that will analyze areas with chronic flooding and recommend solutions.
3/28/2022	B.L.R.	Have you done an assessment of [who has backwater valves] all the homes in the floodplain in Wards 7 and 8? As it relates to the backwater valve? I don't think people would generally know if they have a backwater valve. How do you define minimal cost to resident?	DOEE Collective Task Force	3/28/2022	Responded to in the meeting, please use the link at the bottom to access the meeting minutes or watch the meeting recording.
3/28/2022	M.D.	What types of homes are available for these free resilience assessments?	DOEE	3/28/2022	Responded to in the meeting, please use the link at the bottom to access the meeting minutes or watch the meeting recording.
3/28/2022	K.	Now, are these currently running and fully funded? If so, what is the capacity of the programs? Can these two programs run together as a one-stop shop? Can they go door to door for these programs in the most at-risk and hardest hit areas? Who will qualify? Will there be a minimum (ie \$500) that anyone can qualify regardless of income? Will it be funded by rate increases for the residents? Do you plan to do a survey on the ground area to gain the info that you talked about? Will the public be allowed to participate in the flood task force?	DOEE	3/28/2022	Responded to in the meeting, please use the link at the bottom to access the meeting minutes or watch the meeting recording.
3/28/2022	B.R.	How will folks know if they are being charged fairly for mitigation solutions?	DOEE	3/28/2022	Responded to in the meeting, please use the link at the bottom to access the meeting minutes or watch the meeting recording.
3/28/2022	J.B.	How I can i get involve with helping ramping up with the flood assessment	DOEE	3/28/2022	Responded to in the meeting, please use the link at the bottom to access the meeting minutes or watch the meeting recording.
3/28/2022	K.	Is it fair to put the financial burden on the public? Especially if the water is coming from the storm drains not draining fast enough. Could someone please type the current insurance in the chat please? The last slide listed the current flood insurance names, was just wondering if I could have the names of those please? Can they create a campaign around these programs? Working with outside organizations to let people know about these resources? Giving presentations to kids at school, fairs, food drives, etc.	Collective Task Force	3/28/2022	Responded to in the meeting, please use the link at the bottom to access the meeting minutes or watch the meeting recording.

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3/28/2022	B.R.	I am concerned about the equity issues around the contracting and flood insurance. This is a huge financial hardship for folks in disfavored communities in Wards 7 and 8. [Those folks who are hired to come into homes to make repairs.]	Collective Task Force	Noted concern on 3/28/2022	With the FloodSmart Homes Program, the District is working to make resilience assessments available to owners of qualifying homes at no charge. The District aims to use the results of the resilience assessments to apply for federal grants to help fund home improvements. Our intent is to cover most of the costs through FEMA grants and District funds so that there would be minimal cost to participating homeowners.
3/28/2022	J.O.	Also concerned with the equity issues, would love to hear more information or any developments surrounding a general flood assistance fund for low income communities.	Collective Task Force		Regarding a general flood assistance fund - we are exploring similar options both through our FloodSmart Homes proposal, as well as alternate "flood insurance programs" that could help provide rapid assistance to residents after a flood. The details will be discussed in future Task Force meetings but there is clear intent to make these programs affordable and beneficial to low income communities.
3/28/2022	K.	A basic funding package for everyone regardless of income in the highest hit areas with a scale for income. EX: 100,000 gets 500, 80,000 gets 600, 20,000 is free up to x dollars.	Collective Task Force		Thank you for your comment. We will consider such a sliding scale for both the FloodSmart Homes program and for any Flood Insurance Program aimed at providing assistance after a flood.
3/28/2022	J.	the district needs to let ratepayers finance stormwater project and reap the financial benefit, meaning they can be paid back with stormwater credits for these infrastructure project, that is already being done in our src program	DOEE		We appreciate this idea and are always looking for new ways to finance and innovate with Green Infrastructure. The more green infrastructure we have in the city, the more we will be able to reduce the water volume that flows into public spaces during rain storms. However, the retention standards that govern the creation of SRCs are more focused about ensuring water quality benefits, and won't necessarily help solve flooding problems due to the sheer volume of water that is generated during rainstorms.
3/28/2022	B.R.	The Mayor is promoting an eco-system of equity. I think projects east of the river should be a priority.	Collective Task Force		Thank you for your feedback. The Task Force is definitely concerned about equity. This is from the Mission Statement: "The Task Force shall identify equitable ways to reduce the risk of water damage from coastal, interior, riverine, and sewer back up floods in the District, as well as ways to reduce financial impacts of flooding on low- and fixed-income homeowners. In considering potential actions, the Task Force shall prioritize the protection of vulnerable populations, maintenance of the District's affordable housing stock, increasing the District's housing supply in a safe and resilient manner, supporting ongoing economic development, and mitigating disparities in real estate access and equity."
3/28/2022	J.L.	Curious to see what the thinking of sea level rise due to climate change. In the Anacostia river at least. We have already had about a foot rise in the last several decades. Looking at inidation maps going forward, what is the broader strategy mitigating that for DC? I live about 16 feet above sea level and a lot of my neighbors are lower so I worry about them.	DOEE Responded	3/28/2022	Responded to in the meeting, please use the link at the bottom to access the meeting minutes or watch the meeting recording.

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3/28/2022	J.B.	I am a District Resident and Stormwater contractor, a lot of these projects are going to take a lot of residential help or private help from citizens to get this information out. I have been working in this field 7 years. When it comes to the district government putting out these projects, they are great. I think stormwater is the holy grail of infrastructure [projects] right now in the district. Its just getting everyone educated on understanding how we can all work together, making money and also creating jobs, with this stormwater infrastructure. With the Green infrastructure program where they pay stormwater credit to property owners to install green infrastrucutre on their property....there is a part of this where people can make money	Acknowledged comments and suggestions	3/28/2022	Responded to in the meeting, please use the link at the bottom to access the meeting minutes or watch the meeting recording.
3/28/2022	B.R.	A-PAC did an equity tour, the first tour was at Marvin Gaye park. I was saddened by what was done with the Watts Branch stream. Its one thing for us to be in this meeting talking about it	DOEE		We are sorry to hear your frustrations with the Watts Branch restoration project. We'd like to know more about your specific concerns, can you email Josh.Burch@dc.gov with further information.
4/14/2022	A.F. (during DCAR Speaker Series)	Will any of these programs to help residents financially be retroactive to those that have previously experienced floods. Also programs like the back flow prevention valve, need to be offered in a way that DC pays the contractor. We shouldn't have to come out of pocket several thousand dollars in advance and then have to apply for reimbursement.	Collective Task Force		Thank you for the question - we will bring this up for the Task Force to consider during the Residential Resilience Action Team meetings as they discuss the development of a program to help residents after flood events.
3/31/2022	M. J.	I was told there is a statute of limitations for claims. Is it 2 or 3 years	DC Water	Additional follow-up	While we are not able to offer legal advice to customers, generally, the statute of limitations can be affected by various factors. We strongly suggest you consult an attorney to discuss the potential claim and which statute of limitations would apply.
3/31/2022	Z.	What about flood insurance, was it a sewer backup?	DOEE		Generally, homeowners' policies do not cover sewer backup insurance, a separate endorsement is usually necessary. Typically, there is no requirement for sewer backup coverage to give a discount for having a working sump pump, but some insurers may require it. The cost of adding sewer backup coverage should be considered in consultation with your insurance professional.
3/31/2022	B. C.	Do you have information on what the flood group DC Silverjackets is?	DOEE		The D.C. Silver Jackets is an interagency team comprised of members from federal, District of Columbia and regional agencies, as well as academia. This team leverages resources to identify and implement comprehensive, resilient, and sustainable solutions to reduce flood risk around the District and to assist local communities. Flood risk management is critical in the District, as there are three types of flooding that can impact low areas of the city: river; coastal storm surge; and interior. You can see their website at: https://silverjackets.nfrmp.us/State-Teams/Washington-DC
3/31/2022	Z.	If we have sump pumps, can we get a discount on the flood insurance?	DOEE		Sump pumps specifically do not decrease the cost of flood insurance, but other measures such as installing crawlspace flood vents, elevating utility equipment, and obtaining an Elevation Certificate may help lower premiums.
3/31/2022	D.F.	How much of the problem could be from the thousands of toilets that are flushing due to the tremendous increase in population? is it only from rainwater?	DC Water		Sewers are modeled for sanitary flows from new development prior to approval. DOEE regulations require on site storm water

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3/31/2022	M.J.	I had a backwater valve installed last week by Jiffy Plumbing. I just submitted my backwater valve paperwork to Emanuel Briggs 5 minutes ago. I am a single mother and I hope that I won't have to wait months in order to receive my reimbursement of \$5450.	DC Water		Check has been processed and will be hand delivered at resident's request to not have it mailed.
3/31/2022	Z.	Will the city help seniors on fixed incomes to cover the installation of those measures...?	DOEE		DOEE's goal in developing the FloodSmart Homes program (currently proposed in the Mayor's FY23 budget) is to make installation of floodproofing measures available at little to no cost to residents.
3/31/2022	T.M.	It would be great to have a one stop shop that includes a website, phone and email for residents to express flooding problems. The flood task force website may be a great place to start a helpline of sorts.	DOEE		We agree that having a single point of contact for resident flooding concerns is an ideal solution and one we are working with relevant agencies to build out. For now, please reach out to the DOEE Flood Team at flood.risk@dc.gov or (202) 535-2600 if you have any questions or comments regarding flood risk management in the District, and we will either address your question or get you to someone who can! The main webpage for DOEE's flood risk management program is available at: https://doee.dc.gov/node/9462
3/31/2022	Z.	There needs to be a community response team specifically aimed at flooding in neighborhoods, and I think the priority area where 87% of homeowners should get priority attention. This was a good meeting, thanks and keep reaching out. Peace			Thank you for your feedback and the idea for a community response team. We gave added this as a potential solution for further consideration in Category 9 - Flood Emergency Planning Response, and Recovery.

[Click here to view the March 28, 2022 meeting minutes or watch the meeting recording.](#)

[Click here to view the March 31, 2022 meeting minutes or watch the meeting recording.](#)