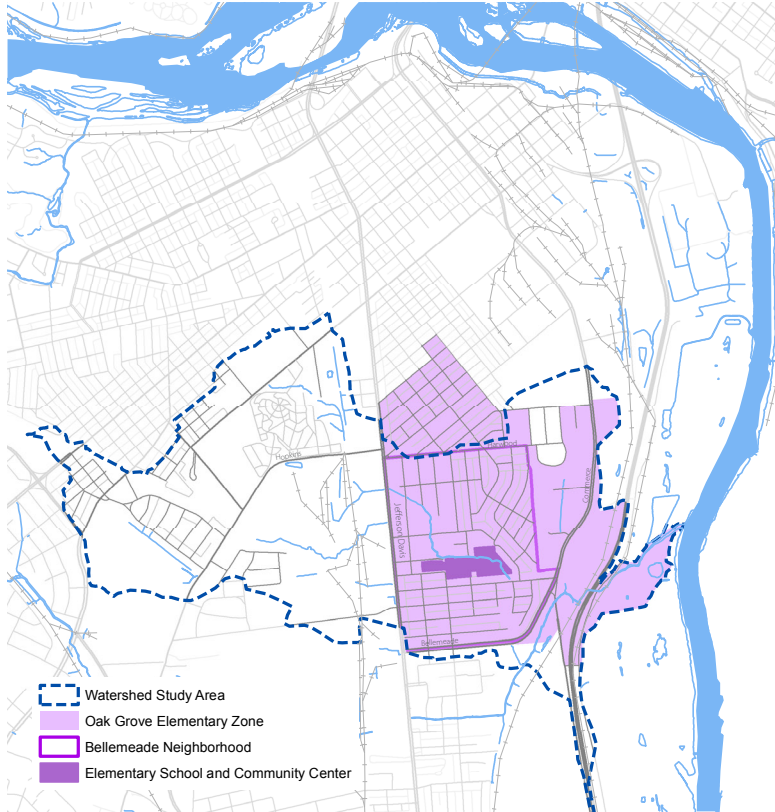


BELLEMEADE WALKABLE WATERSHED DEMONSTRATION PROJECT

healthy waters : healthy communities

Overview

Located in the Bellemeade neighborhood in Richmond, Virginia, this first *Walkable Watershed* pilot project will combine community outreach and technical analysis to identify strategies that can improve the health of the watershed and the neighborhood. The grant-funded project will bring community stakeholders together to develop a shared vision and set of priorities to improve watershed and neighborhood health. The resulting watershed concept plan will outline projects, phasing options, and a set of implementation partners.



Examples of potential strategies that could link healthy water with healthy communities include:

At the watershed scale: Connect the neighborhood to the James River and Richmond's regional trail network through trail and water quality improvements for the Bellemeade corridor.

At the neighborhood scale: Improve pedestrian routes and the flow and infiltration of water within the neighborhood through street retrofits that integrate sidewalks, natural drainage and tree canopy.

At the site scale: Create outdoor education opportunities related to the creek and rainwater management near the new Oak Grove Elementary School, Bellemeade Community Center and the Bellemeade park property.

The outcome will be a neighborhood watershed concept plan for a restored and walkable watershed that:

1. reflects the community's vision of a healthy watershed
2. identifies opportunities for education, improved community health and a restored watershed
3. outlines specific actions and strategies to implement the concept plan

Process

Designed as a demonstration project, this process can be replicated in other urban watersheds.



This project is made possible by Altria Group and the Virginia Department of Forestry. The Green Infrastructure Center and Skeo Solutions are facilitating this project in partnership with community stakeholders.

Information

For more information about this project, please contact:

Alisa Hefner at 434-975-6700 x235 | ahefner@skeo.com

www.gjinc.org | www.skeo.com

Healthy Watersheds

The Bellemeade neighborhood is situated within a watershed that flows to the James River, and eventually the Chesapeake Bay. Like many urban watersheds, the Bellemeade creek suffers from polluted runoff from yards, streets and parking lots. The City of Richmond has prioritized this watershed for improvements to restore the health of the James River. This project will identify opportunities to infiltrate and clean rainwater, while simultaneously providing neighborhood amenities such as trails, trees and park enhancements.

"In a healthy watershed, water, soil and air are clean. People, as well as fish and wildlife, have the water, food, shelter and other resources they need to survive."

- Lynne Geller, *Healthy Watersheds, Healthy People*

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