

OAK STREET STORMWATER

DESIGN WORKSHOP

Wednesday, April 20th, 2022

FAQS

Stormwater

1. How much will this project improve stormwater in the downtown neighborhoods and business district?

The Oak Street Project is one of several stormwater improvement projects identified as part of the larger Downtown Stormwater Improvement Program (DSIP) and will make a significant impact to reduce urban flooding in downtown Fort Collins. With the installation of the large storm pipe and inlets along Oak Street, stormwater that would otherwise flood streets and properties will flow into the pipe to the Udall Natural Area and then the Poudre River. Once the DSIP is fully built-out the floodplain in Old Town will likely be fully removed.

Residential “Bumpouts” and Rain Gardens

1. What are bumpouts and what do they do?

Bumpouts (also called curb extensions or bulbouts) extend the sidewalk into the parking lane to narrow the roadway, thereby providing shorter and safer pedestrian crossings, traffic calming and additional space at the intersection corners for landscaping or roadway signage.

2. What is the difference between a bumpout and a rain garden?

A rain garden is an engineered stormwater quality feature that filters pollutants from stormwater prior runoff going into pipes and downstream waterways. Rain gardens are designed to be visually pleasing and are typically landscaped with drought and salt tolerant plants. For the Oak Street Project, we are proposing to install rain gardens at some of the bumpout locations to help meet the stormwater quality goals of the city. Not all bumpouts will be rain gardens.

3. What will the rain gardens look like? How will they enhance the aesthetics of the community?

The rain gardens in this plan will look similar to rain gardens already in the area. Existing rain gardens such as the one in front of the Trial Gardens on Remington, and the ones along the roundabout at Vine and Shields are good examples. Ornamental plants, such as perennials and

shrubs are typically placed along the edges of the garden by the sidewalks. The center of the rain garden will contain a sandy mixture that provides water quality benefits and will become grassy over time.

Maintenance of Rain Gardens and Bumpouts

1. Will residents be responsible for the maintenance of rain gardens?

Residents will not be responsible for the maintenance of rain gardens. The city will be responsible for installation and maintenance of the stormwater and landscaping components of the rain gardens.

The Stormwater and Parks departments from the city will maintain the gardens long term. City Parks and Stormwater are developing standard operating procedures to ensure the long-term maintenance of rain garden function and aesthetics. Both departments will submit budget requests as part of the city's budgeting process to support the maintenance of the rain gardens.

2. Will residents be responsible for the installation and maintenance of the bumpouts that are not rain gardens?

The city will install landscaping in the bumpouts and then residents will be responsible for the maintenance of bumpouts similar to how residents are historically and currently responsible for maintaining the "tree lawn" area between sidewalks and the road.

3. How will this project impact current and future resident landscaping plans and projects?

We will work with each affected property owner to determine a landscape plan. In the coming months, the City will be reaching out to collaborate with property owners regarding designs for bumpouts at intersections and/or lawn extensions.

Other Utility Work

1. Will there be other utility work happening with this project?

Yes, we will be replacing other aging water and sanitary sewer mains in the area where needed. Along with replacing the mains, there are some water services along Oak Street that will be replaced as part of the Safe Water Action Program (or SWAP, where known galvanized service lines or lead gooseneck connections will be replaced), and/or where service lines or meters need to be relocated.

Parking & Bike lanes

1. Will there be striped bike lanes on Oak Street?

Yes, there will be striped bike lanes on Oak Street clearly identifying travel lanes for cars, bikes, and for parking.

2. Why won't there be designated bike lanes on Oak Street in the downtown area?

The intent is to preserve the quantity of parking downtown while enhancing transportation options like biking and walking. The design is striving to balance the needs of safe travel for cars and bikes in the busy downtown area.

Shields & Oak Intersection

1. Why is there not a crosswalk being added to Shields?

The Shields intersection is too large to put an unsignalized crossing and is too close to other crosswalks at Mountain, Akin, and Magnolia to install a signalized crossing. Given the proximity to the other signalized crosswalks and the volume of traffic on Shields, people are encouraged to use the other nearby crosswalks.
