



Blueprint Columbus
A Better Approach to Improving Water Quality
Community Advisory Panel
July 16, 2013

When it rains.....

- Sewers that work fine the rest of the time become too full
- Can cause overflows of sewage into rivers, and basement back-ups



Traditional Solution?

- Just build a bigger sewer
- Only treating the symptom – not the cause
- But we have to do something (Consent Decrees with Ohio EPA)
- Current “gray” plan calls for two big, long tunnels, with a big price tag
 - \$2 **billion** over next thirty years

Is there a better way?

- Spend money above ground instead of on little-used deep tunnels
- Create opportunity to engage community and rebuild neighborhoods
- Have to spend billions, why not transform the City at the same time?



BLUE PRINT COLUMBUS

Clean streams.
Strong neighborhoods.

What is Blueprint Columbus?

- Potentially a better approach
- Treat the cause of the problem instead of the symptom
- How?
 - Get the rain water out of the sanitary sewer
 - Get the rain water clean (green infrastructure)



Gray v. Green

- Gray Infrastructure
 - Traditional concrete solutions
 - Includes pipes, tunnels, wastewater treatment plants, storage facilities
- Green Infrastructure
 - Engineered solutions that mimic nature
 - Includes rain gardens, bioswales, green roofs, porous pavement



Benefits of Blueprint Columbus

- Neighborhood improvements – gardens, porous sidewalks, trees, mini parks (with porous basketball courts), removal of vacant homes
- Increased home values
- Creates more opportunities for local contractors and consultants
- Permanent local maintenance jobs
- Cleaner waterways



Challenges of Blueprint Columbus

- Tunnels are out of sight, out of mind
 - Non-intrusive
- Getting water out of sewers means going into front yards, back yards, maybe basements
 - More intrusive
- Gauging community acceptance
 - Understanding community needs and how to accommodate
- Which is why you are here.....



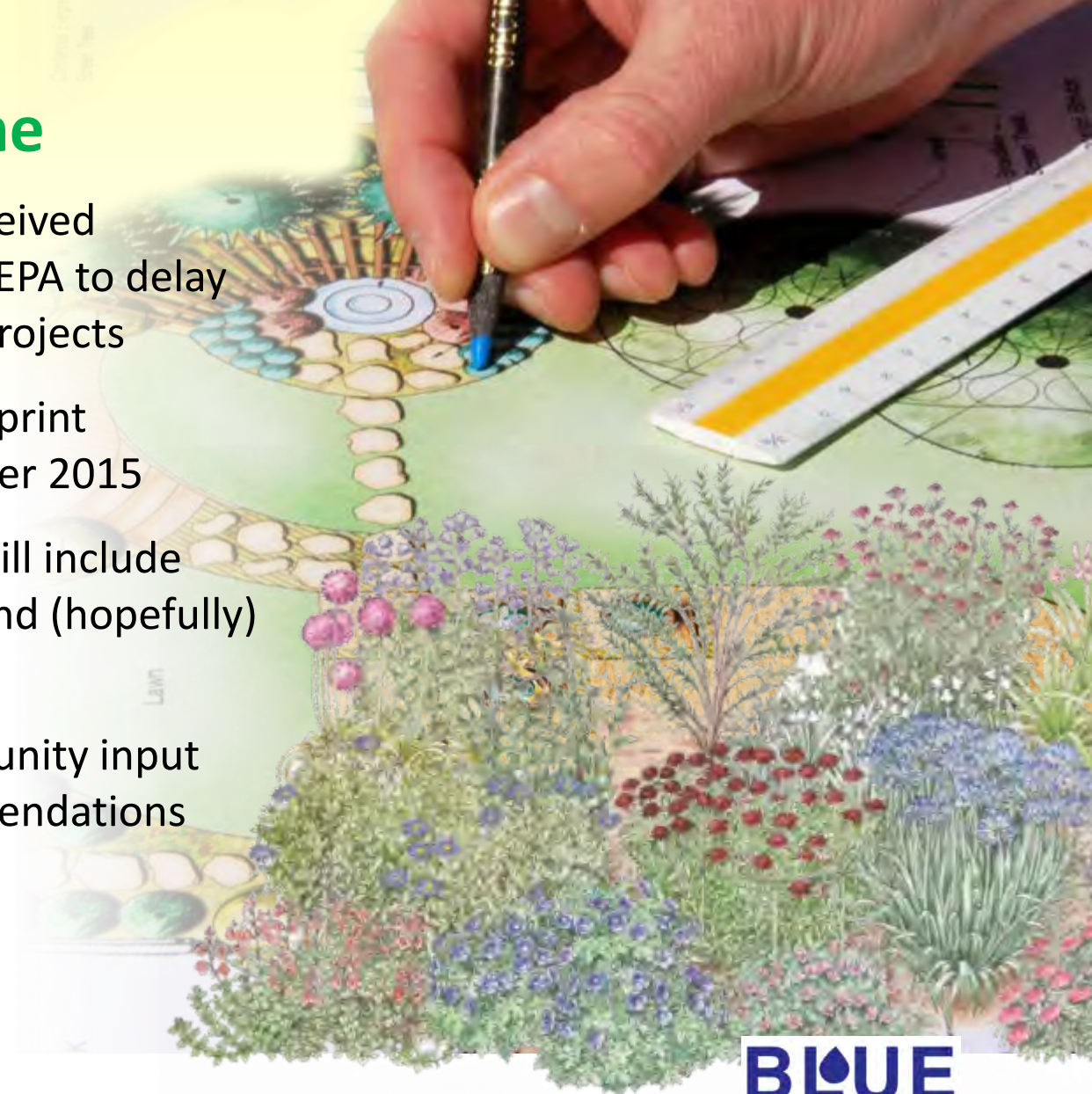
Community Advisory Panel

Purpose

To advise the City of Columbus on the development of its plan to address both stormwater runoff and sewer overflows

Blueprint Timeline

- In 2012, asked and received permission from Ohio EPA to delay some Consent Order projects
- Submit new plan, Blueprint Columbus, in September 2015
- Blueprint Columbus will include traditional approach and (hopefully) new approach
- Will summarize community input including CAP recommendations



In the mean time....

- Lots of moving parts, which we will be discussing in detail at next meeting
- But wanted to make you aware of two pilot projects that you may be hearing about....

Clintonville

- Evaluating for full Blueprint treatment
- Area chosen by OEPA
- Survey crews in field now
- 3000 homes

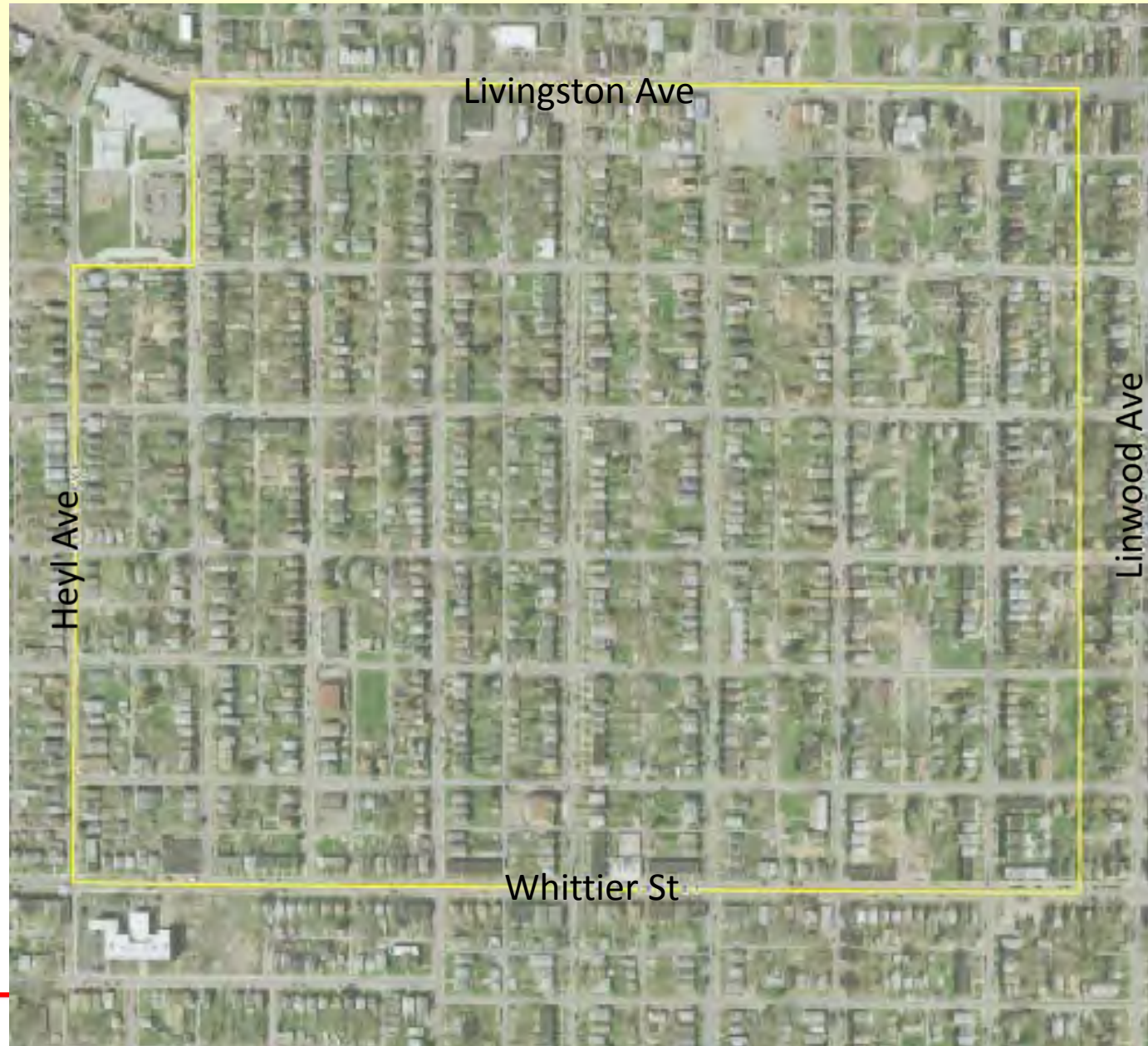


Barthman Parsons

- Repurposing vacant lots
- South side is a focus of other City efforts
 - Public Service
 - Development
- Great opportunity for internal City collaboration



Barthman Parsons



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Comments or Questions?

