

Agenda Item 22-3591

I have several ideas on ways we can promote water quality solutions and habitat preservation in city stormwater design.

A) The planting of certain plants around these spaces can help keep animals thriving while also allowing a space for native vegetation to grow. An example would be our own state bird, the Mockingbird. If we were to have areas set up with the plants Mockingbirds like the most, ornamental berry bushes such as elderberry / blackberry/ juniper / pokeweed, then it would give them a safe haven and food source while at the same time giving the area a more aesthetic appeal. Each area can be set up to aim at a certain type of animal or vegetation, or maybe several in one area if it's big enough. Nut trees, like longleaf pine trees or turkey oaks, are good for squirrels and other small omnivores

B) Bird houses and bird baths are both obvious solutions, however some special considerations should be made. Ones that are either high up or in the middle of the water (not easily reached by humans) will make the animals feel safer and will promote their use. I have attached a picture of an example of a birdhouse in the middle of a lake.

C) Certain areas might be good locations for bat houses as well. Bats are great to have in an area, especially in a place like North Port with its mosquito problems.

D) Water features will help with stagnant water. Also, adding in a fountain or some sort of contraption that moves water is great for wildlife as well as many animals prefer living and feeding near moving water.