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REPORT

June 30, 2022

CITY OF
Chelsea
MASSACHUSETTS

Mill Creek Water Quality Improvement Project

Volume III of III: Civic Engagement and Education



View of Mill Creek from 88 Clinton Street, Chelsea, MA – future location of City park.

This project was funded by the Fiscal Year 2022 Coastal Pollutant Remediation (CPR) Grant Program awarded by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs Office of Coastal Zone Management.

CZM-CPR City of Chelsea: Community Engagement
June 20, 2022

As part of its work on the Mill Creek Water Quality Enhancements Project, GreenRoots collaborated with the Mystic River Watershed Association, the Nature Conservancy, the City of Chelsea and Weston and Sampson on public outreach and education concerning the efforts along Mill Creek. GreenRoots has worked for over 20 years on restoring habitat, improving public access to and appreciation of the Mill Creek and linking land use practices in the watershed to water quality outcomes.

Within the context of this effort, GreenRoots incorporated updates on the project within our monthly member meetings (which have been virtual and in-person), in email and social media communications with our members and in two community engagement events.

Event #1: Green Roots City-wide Earth Day Cleanup (April 23, 2022; over 200 attendees)
GreenRoots' annual Earth Day Cleanup drew over 200 volunteers. The event was advertised bilingually through GreenRoots' social media and communications channels. Convening first at Chelsea City Hall the groups dispersed throughout the City, with the project team moving to Mill Creek to remove trash along the banks of the Creek (pictured below). At a closing event the team tabled, providing general stormwater materials and information as well as a watershed model that was a hit with the kids.





Event #2: Mill Creek Stormwater and Visioning Open House (June 14, 2022; approx 20 attendees)

A stormwater and Mill Creek visioning open house was held at 88 Clinton Street, a vacant lot site along the Mill Creek which has recently been acquired by the City of Chelsea. Clinton Street and the adjacent neighborhood is an area that was studied for the incorporation of stormwater best management practices, while the 88 Clinton Street site itself will become a public park and public access point to the Mill Creek. Its design is still being worked on in consultation with the community through events such as these. Prior to the meeting we sent out emails through the City, GreenRoots, and Mystic River Watershed Association. In addition GreenRoots' vaccine outreach workers (the "Vaccine Ambassadors") flyered and door-knocked in the neighborhood adjacent to the site on Mill Creek.

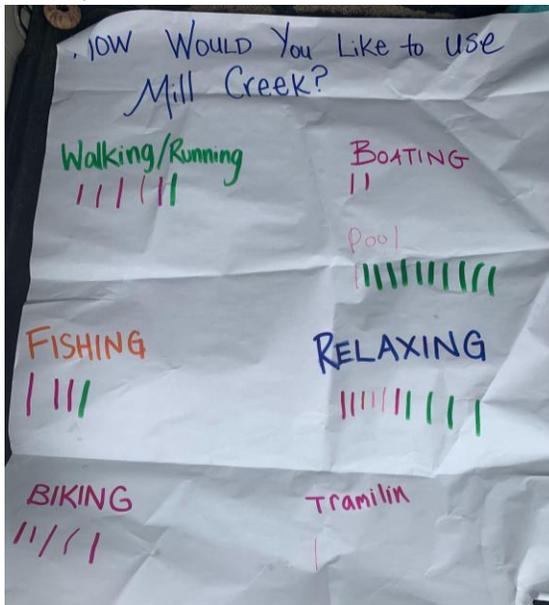


The event was held from 5:30 - 7:00pm and included pizza and games to ensure that it was family friendly and open to all. We set up the following tables:

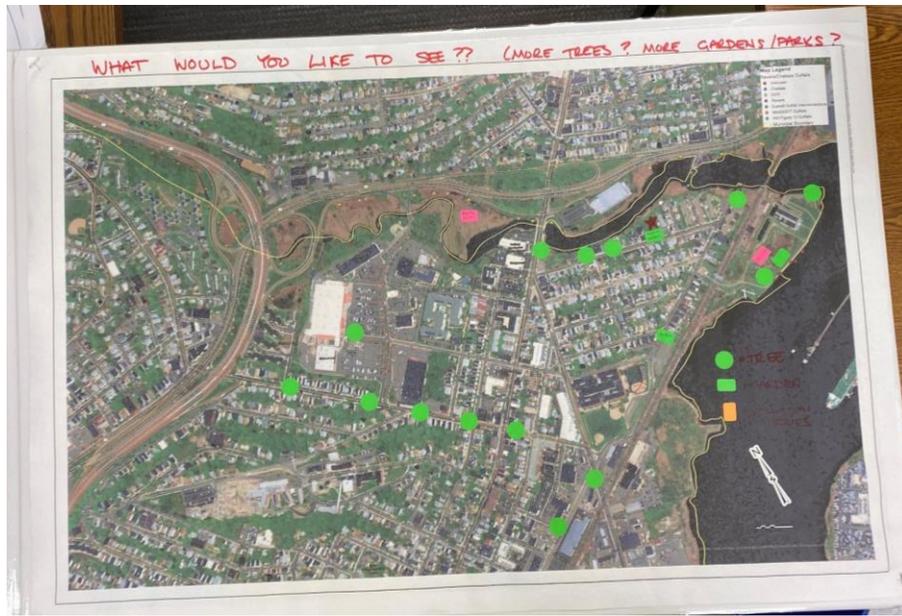
- Welcome and general stormwater information
- Pizza and drinks!
- Mill Creek broad vision
- Presentation of BMPs

The tables included interactive activities to elicit feedback from community members on uses they would like to see on Mill Creek as well as descriptions of stormwater BMPs and opportunities to vote for BMPs people would like to see implemented in their neighborhood. We plan to use these responses to help guide our work on stormwater in Mill Creek as we move forward.

What would you like to do at Mill Creek?



Where would you like to add trees or rain gardens?



What BMPs are you interested in?

Color in the raindrop underneath the solution you would like to see implemented in your community!

Street Planter Boxes

Tree Box Filter

Restore Mill Creek

Underground Storage