



IMPROVING ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS

Improving environmental conditions is a major component of the revitalization program for the Neck area, one that **will noticeably improve the overall health, safety and quality of life for residents, as well as protect natural lands and increase the health of ecological systems.** Environmental improvements include:

- ❖ Brownfield site transformations
- ❖ Stormwater management improvements
- ❖ Natural land area expansion
- ❖ Buffer Implementation

BROWNFIELD SITE TRANSFORMATIONS

Brownfields are properties that are contaminated, or thought to be contaminated, by a hazardous substance, pollutant or contaminant.

While most brownfield sites in the Neck area exist in industrial areas, some also exist in residential areas such as Park Circle on lands that once housed commercial ventures such as gas stations, dry cleaners, and auto body shops.

Benefits

- ❖ Promotes economic development and community reinvestment
- ❖ Frees previously unavailable land for productive re-use
- ❖ Protects the environment
- ❖ Reduces blight
- ❖ Utilizes existing infrastructure
- ❖ Takes development pressures off undeveloped greenfield land

STORMWATER IMPROVEMENTS

In urban environments such as the Neck area, stormwater runoff usually contains oil, gasoline, pesticides, fertilizers and other chemicals. This polluted stormwater moves in concentrated flows into drains, then into surrounding natural areas and water bodies.

The key to improving stormwater management is to disperse the water instead of concentrating it in a few locations, slowing the rate water moves and allowing infiltration and evaporation to occur. This reduces the volume of water leaving the area and allows water to soak back into the ground, permitting natural processes to **remove contaminants from the river and streams where people fish and enjoy recreation.**



Stormwater System



EXPAND NATURAL LAND AREAS

There has been a **significant loss of natural land area** on the Neck over the years due to development; this loss of the green network has resulted in degradation to the remaining environmental systems. Urban stormwater runoff has caused flooding, impacted water quality, altered water tables and caused fluctuations of temperatures in wetlands and tidal systems, all stressing ecosystem health.

Benefits

- ❖ Restores functioning ecosystems
- ❖ More natural processes to aid water quality, groundwater recharge and water storage and conveyance
- ❖ Habitat diversity can begin to occur



Natural Areas

IMPLEMENT BUFFERS

There are many places within the Neck area where neighborhoods sit adjacent to commercial or industrial sites, as well as along rail and freight traffic corridors. The noise, vibration, odor, light, pollution and negative visual aesthetic of these intensive uses reduces the quality of life for residents in the neighborhoods.

While some impact reduction can be accomplished through proper planning and design, the proximity of these incompatible areas will generally require construction of buffers.

Benefits

- ❖ Shield incompatible uses from view and mitigate their negative impacts
- ❖ Provide sound deflection
- ❖ Prevent access in undesired locations
- ❖ Vegetated buffers provide pollution reduction



Buffers