

Takoma Park Mobilization Committee for
Takoma Alliance for Local Living Economy (TALLE)

Draft Proposal (3/2020)
Restoration at Dorothy's Woods /
Sustainable Urban Habitat

Background: Addressing the climate change emergency is recognized by the City and residents of Takoma Park. Residents with yards and balconies want to more sustainably utilize their properties to meet the challenge, but need models, examples and guidance to do so. Dorothy's Woods greenspace was purchased with the aim of conserving this land for the benefit of the public. This proposal outlines a plan to environmentally optimize portions of Dorothy's Woods as a demonstration garden which will provide guidance to and benefit for our citizens as we move towards more sustainable environments.

Vision: TALLE's vision is to utilize Dorothy's Woods as a sustainable urban and native plants and pollinator demonstration plot. It will serve as an educational model; provide passive recreational opportunities; and, engage the community in its design, implementation, recreational uses and future maintenance.

Description of Site: Dorothy's Woods (DW) is a 2.68 acre plot owned by the City of Takoma Park. It is adjacent to the Washington McLaughlin Christian School and is accessed by Woodland and Circle Avenues and from the right of way path between Gude and Woodland Avenues. Its wooded hillside spills out onto a flat degraded asphalt basketball court (approximately 75' x 70') partially covered by weeds, mud and standing water. Its southern edge opens without obstruction onto a wide arc of sky. See attached link: <https://takomaparkmd.gov/initiatives/project-directory/dorothy-woods/>

Objectives:

- Engage and mobilize neighborhood and City residents in sustainable urban habitat restoration through participation in the design, implementation, education and care of DW.
- Initially restore DW meadow area, currently the degraded basketball court, with resilient native and edible plant species adapted to the existing soil and water conditions. And potentially, if there is neighborhood interest and City agreement, expand to the forest area, that may include planting a food forest and installing benches, trails.
- Develop training materials and educational programs demonstrating sustainable strategies, plant selection, land use and water management practices that can be utilized throughout yards, balconies and green spaces in Takoma Park.
- Identify partners, technical resources and funding sources to support this proposal.

Preliminary Timeline: (TBD) This project envisions a phased-in strategy beginning Spring 2020. It is expected to take two years to implement.

Phase One: Seek neighborhood input and guidance; Complete soil testing; Remove asphalt; Assess groundwater conditions; and, potentially plant a cover crop.

Phase Two: Develop design and maintenance strategy; Identify financial needs and funding sources; Implement design, planting and maintenance strategies.

Phase Three: Develop and execute education and training materials and programs; Evaluate, monitor and revise project.

For questions and concerns, contact Randy Gibson, randy.gibsong@gmail.com, or Karen Elrich, karendelrich@gmail.com



Degraded basketball Court Dorothy's Woods, Takoma Park, MD