



# REGIONAL CLIMATE ACTION SUMMIT

June 9 - 11, 2022



Thursday June 9<sup>th</sup>

**LEAD SPONSOR:** [Victor Stanley, Inc.](#)

**10-10:15am: Conference Introduction and Land Acknowledgement**

- Vaughn Rinner, PLA, FASLA – Co-Chair, ASLA Climate Action Network

**Session 1:** 10:15-11:45am

**Climate Action Outlook: from Federal to Local**

*(1.5 PDH/HSW pending)*

Climate change is a complex problem, and it's tough to sort the myriad legislative actions being forged to fight the impacts. Luckily we have dedicated activists, lobbyists, and landscape professionals working on policies and initiatives to make a difference. This first session provides a framework for understanding what's been going on at federal level and in state halls, then shifts to a regional and watershed level with a look at programs that harness the unique creativity and designs of landscape architects. Joining us are Mike Tidwell of Chesapeake Climate Action Network, Political Strategist Jack Neil, and Shereen Hughes, Director of Wetlands Watch and VA Coordinator for the Chesapeake Bay Landscape Professional Program.

*Speakers:*

- [Mike Tidwell](#) – Founder & Director, Chesapeake Climate Action Network
- [Shereen Hughes](#) – Assistant Director, Wetlands Watch and Virginia Coordinator, Chesapeake Bay Landscape Professional Program
- [Jack Neil](#) - Lobbyist from MD Chapter
- Moderator: [Matt Johnston, ASLA](#)

11:45am-12:15pm: Lunch Break

**Session 2:** 12:15-1:45pm

**Tidewater Rising: Climate Policy and Response in Coastal Virginia**

*(1.5 PDH/HSW pending)*

*Tidewater Rising* features an advocate, attorney and architect discussing the many challenges climate change affects areas in the Virginia Tidewater region. Each panelist brings a unique

view of the challenges Virginians in this area face when considering storm surge, 'nuisance flooding', infrastructural improvements and how to manage the sometimes-competing priorities of stormwater management, ADA access and tree preservation.

*Speakers:*

- [Lewie Lawrence](#) - Executive Director, Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission
- [Elizabeth Andrews](#) - Director, Virginia Coastal Policy Center, College of William & Mary
- [Jean K. Sleeman, AIA](#) - University Architect, Old Dominion University
- Moderator: [Jennifer Horn, ASLA](#)

1:45-2pm: Break, sponsored by [Ernst Seed](#)

**Session 3:** 2:00-3:30pm

### **Forests and Flood Reduction**

*(1.5 PDH/HSW pending)*

**Session Sponsor:** [TreeDiaper](#)

This session will cover multiple aspects of forest management for water resources. It will first cover fundamentals of forest hydrology, including how forested landscapes store water via soil infiltration and depressional storage and then lose water through evapotranspiration. From this background, the session will then present research focused on forest management to increase water supply to groundwater aquifers and surface water bodies. The remaining time will be spent detailing research aimed at how forests can also be conserved and managed in urban landscapes to reduce flooding. Research will be presented that quantifies flood reduction functions (storage and evapotranspiration) using remotely sensed data, and then discuss the next steps underway to incorporate those functions within stormwater model applications.

*Speaker:*

- [Daniel McLaughlin](#) - Virginia Tech
- Moderator: [PJ Scully, ASLA](#)

3:30-3:45pm Closing announcements

Friday, June 10<sup>th</sup>

**LEAD SPONSOR:** [Forms by Federated](#)

**10-10:15am: Conference Day 2 Introduction and Presentation**

- [Megan Barnes, ASLA](#) – Program Manager for Research, Landscape Architecture Foundation

**Session 4:** 10:15-11:45am

**Climate and Community: Equity in Response**

*(1.5 PDH/HSW pending)*

**Session Sponsor:** [Wetland Studies and Solutions, Inc.](#)

In this session, we will go through 3 projects in the Baltimore - Washington area. First, in the Westport Community, we will look at how using equitable design has revived a lost neighborhood park. We will see how thoughtful community design has helped mitigate climate change by reducing the urban heat island. In Canton, we will look at how a Master Plan is working to enhance the well-used existing park space to increase its resiliency for long-term use and provide new programming and amenities for the city. Finally, we will explore how working collaboratively in the redesign process, Anacostia High School, DCPS, the University of the District of Columbia (UDC), and the District of Columbia Department of Energy and the Environment (DOEE) are partnering to improve the educational outcomes at Anacostia High School, including increasing the pipeline of diverse transformative urban leaders in Ward 8. DOEE and UDC will support the Civil (and Environmental) Engineering and Public Advocacy pathways that Anacostia High School is deploying to prepare students for high-demand careers. The efforts and resources of DOEE and UDC will buttress Anacostia High School's implementation of a project-based learning approach that makes connections across courses and allows students to apply their learning to real-life topics in their communities and environment.

*Speakers:*

- [Joe Ignatius, ASLA](#) – Associate Landscape Architect, Floura Teeter
- [Zolna Russell, ASLA](#) - Landscape Architect, Floura Teeter
- [Harris Trobman, ASLA](#) - University of District of Columbia
- [Katherine Antos](#) – Senior Policy Advisor, DC DOEE
- Moderator: [Joe Ignatius, ASLA](#)

11:45am-12:15pm: Lunch Break

**Session 5:** 12:15 - 1:45pm

**Policy in Action: Public Sector Climate Change Response**

*(1.5 PDH/HSW pending)*

This session will go through 3 examples of public policy put into action as a response to climate change. First, we will discuss the delivery of Prince George's Draft Climate Action Plan through sustained and inclusive efforts of a broad and diverse set of stakeholders that represent a proposed roadmap for practical actions to achieve long-term goals. Second, we will discuss The Department of Energy and Environment's (DOEE) Keep Cool DC, the District of Columbia's heat adaptation plan. Extreme heat is a dangerous hazard that can pose serious health risks to people. Heat can also cause significant infrastructure and economic challenges. With temperatures projected to increase and heat waves expected to occur more frequently and severely, it is critical for the District of Columbia to continue to take action to both reduce the drivers of increasing temperatures while protecting residents and building community resilience. Hear how community and stakeholder engagement shaped the forthcoming Keep Cool DC and learn more about the ways that District government is cooling down the city and keeping residents safe. And lastly, in the City of Alexandria, we will see how sustainability is taking place through planning, implementation and its impact on the community. We look across city

departments to implement the Environmental Action Plan 2040, coordinate, and suggest environmental efforts in other city-wide strategic plans to provide strategic input for large new construction development projects and schools.

*Speakers:*

- **Mary Abe**, Sustainability Division, Prince George's County Dept. of the Environment
- **Erin Garnass-Holmes** - Climate Program Analyst, DC DOEE
- **Ellen Eggerton, PE** – Sustainability Coordinator, City of Alexandria
- Moderator: **PJ Scully, ASLA**

1:45-2pm: Break

**Session 6:** 2pm to 3:30pm

**Project Showcase: Design for Mitigation and Adaptation**

*(1.5 PDH/HSW pending)*

*Projects & Speakers:*

- **Projects:** The Yards West (DC); West Hyattsville MD Sector Plan; Shockoe Bottom Small Area Plan (VA); Ningbo Hi Tech Waterfront Park (China) - Ryan Bouma, AECOM
- **Ellicott City Flood Mitigation Mater Plan** - Tom McGilloway, Mahan Rykiel
- **Tides Inn** - Carlin Tacey, RLA, Waterstreet Studio
- **Regenerative Stream Conveyance** - Ellie Chetelat, Student ASLA, Underwood and Associates
- Moderator: **Deni Ruggeri** - Executive Director, EDRA; Assistant Professor, University of Maryland

3:30 to 3:45pm Closing remarks & announcements

## **SITE TOURS**

**Saturday, June 11th**

10:00 am to 12:00 pm – Tours *(2.0 PDH/HSW pending)*

12:00 pm to 1:00 pm - Lunch

**Site Tour: Baltimore, MD**

Project: Reimagine Middle Branch

Tour Leaders: **Chris Streb, PE**, Biohabitats and **Megan Born, RLA, ASLA**, James Corner Field Operations

*Reimagine Middle Branch is a community-driven initiative to reconnect South Baltimore to its waterfront. A collaboration between South Baltimore Gateway Partnership, the City of Baltimore, and Parks and People Foundation, the plan is being led by James Corner Field Operations, with support from a locally-based multi-disciplinary consultant team. The plan seeks to build a network of places and spaces that support health, vitality, and future investments across the Middle*

Branch “park-shed” and its adjacent communities. The plan focuses outcomes within three ‘Equity Frameworks’: Restore and Connect the Shoreline, Transform Barriers into Connections, and Support Communities with Parks and Programs. More information can be found at [www.reimaginemb.com](http://www.reimaginemb.com)

Members of the design and client teams will lead a tour of portions of the 11-mile long project site. The tour will begin at the mouth of the Patapsco River and extend around the Middle Branch shoreline to Middle Branch Park, during the walk the team will share insights on the long-term design vision and roadmap to realization.

### **Site Tour: Alexandria, VA**

Project: Alexandria Waterfront Flood Mitigation and Windmill Hill Park

Tour Leaders: [Matthew Landes, ASLA](#) and [Beth Znidersic, ASLA](#), City of Alexandria

*City staff from the Departments of Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Activities and the Department of Project Implementation will offer a guided walking tour of the recently renovated Windmill Hill Park and associated living shoreline and then proceed with a walking tour of the City’s Waterfront Flood Mitigation project area for the upcoming Waterfront Flood Mitigation Project. Staff will discuss some of the challenges and opportunities experienced in each project and specific considerations and policies for these and other City projects that designers and policy makers face in relationship to: civic engagement, the City’s landscape guidelines, compliance with stormwater quality and quantity requirements, accessibility, and balancing competing demands and interests within a project’s budget constraints. Staff will also discuss alternative project delivery methods considered for the Waterfront Flood Mitigation project and why a Progressive Design-Build delivery was ultimately selected.*

*Meeting location: The tour group will meet at the southern end of Windmill Hill Park to start the tour, walk the project area of the park and living shoreline, and then walk north along the Potomac River towards Waterfront Park.*

### **Site Tour: Norfolk, VA**

Project: Ohio Creek Watershed

Tour Leader: [Selo Qejvani, PE](#), Senior Design Construction Manager for Dept. of Public Works, City of Norfolk

*The highlights of the approximately \$112M federal grant flood risk management project are:*

- *About 7000LF of Earthen Berms*
- *About 1000LF of Floodwall*
- *4200LF of Living Shoreline*
- *Haynes Creek Tide Gate*
- *Haynes Creek and Ballentine Stormwater Pump Stations*
- *Community Fishing Pier*
- *Grandy Village Resilience Park*
- *Tidal Wetlands creation*
- *Relocation and Elevation of Kimball Terrace*

- *Renovation of Stormwater, Sanitary Sewer, and Potable Water pipes*
- *Project area road resurfacing*