

# Greening Richmond Public Libraries

Hull Street Branch Library - Urban Design Committee Final Review

July 10, 2025



# Overview

- Existing Conditions at Hull Street Branch
- Summary of Community Engagement Efforts
- Updated Plans
- Maintenance
- Broad Rock Branch Library

# Existing Conditions at Hull Street Branch Library



# Existing Conditions - Main Entrance





# Existing Conditions - Hull Street



# Existing Conditions - Hull Street





## Existing Conditions - E. 14th Street



# Existing Conditions - E. 14th Street





# Existing Conditions - Parking Area



# Summary of Existing Conditions

- Total Acreage: 0.302 acres, largely impervious
- Library is accessible by foot, bicycle, public transit, and car
- Minimal green infrastructure, few outdoor amenities
- High heat vulnerability, low tree canopy percentage (less than 10%)
- Located in a priority watershed (Goose Creek/Manchester Canal)
- Drainage issues have been observed at the intersection of Hull Street and E. 14th Street
- Existing landscaping consists of non-native plant species

# Community Engagement

- **Community Questionnaire**
  - Offered online and in-person at Hull St Branch
- **Public Information Meeting**
  - Held at Hull St Branch on January 28, 2025
- **Stakeholder Meeting**
  - Held at Hull St Branch on February 12, 2025

# Questionnaire Summary

**Total responses: 16**

## **Usage & Support**

- 44% use the library at least monthly
- 100% support replacing non-native plants with native species
- 94% support replacing impervious surfaces with green infrastructure

## **Key Themes**

- The majority of respondents reported not currently using the library's outdoor spaces, describing them loud, unsafe, and exposed.
- While many respondents shared appreciated the existing art installation, respondents expressed a desire for more shade, comfortable seating, and a more “garden-like” atmosphere.
- Respondents shared strong enthusiasm for transforming the current outdoor areas into greener, more welcoming spaces, along with calls to improve pedestrian safety outside of the library through traffic-calming measures.



# Broad Rock Branch Library

“The rain gardens and outdoor reading rooms have really enhanced the experience of both staff and patrons at Broad Rock Branch Library. We regularly get compliments of the beauty of the rain garden, and people appreciate that they are all native plants. The outdoor seating has created spaces for people to wait and read. We even have programs in the outside seating areas! Since Soar365 has started caring for the gardens, they have looked fantastic. Thank you for such a wonderful addition to our branch!”

- Heather Montgomery,

*Library Community Services Manager at Broad Rock Branch*



# DEQ Specifications & Detail

## P-FIL-03 Permeable Pavement

### 1.0 Definition

Permeable pavements are alternative paving surfaces that allow stormwater runoff to filter through voids in the pavement surface into an underlying stone reservoir, where it is temporarily stored and/or infiltrated. A variety of permeable pavement surfaces are available, including **pervious concrete**, **porous asphalt** and permeable grid **pavers** and **interlocking concrete pavers**. Artificial turf can also be used as the surface cover for permeable pavement designs. While the specific design may vary, all permeable pavements have a similar structure, consisting of a permeable surface pavement layer, an underlying stone aggregate reservoir layer, and a filter layer or fabric installed on the bottom. See Figure P-FIL-03-1 and Figure P-FIL-03-2.

# Maintenance

## Greening RPL

### Maintenance and Stewardship Team:

- RPL landscape contractor
- SOAR365
- Green Infrastructure Stewards

### Goal:

Ensure practices installed on library grounds reduce stormwater runoff as intended, while also ensuring communities have access to welcoming and well-maintained green spaces.



East End Branch Library