

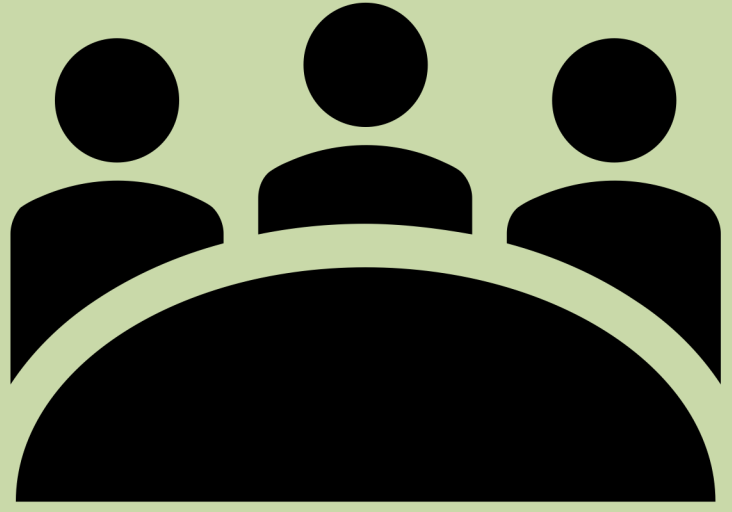


Maintaining Our Infrastructure

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What Did This Class Entail?:

The class I took, CPSP 349T (Infrastructure and Society Service-Learning Project), enlightened me on the many ways our society fails to keep up with the maintenance of our buildings already installed along with the accessibility issues that many older buildings pose, especially those on our campus. Almost every week it seems a guest speaker comes into our class to talk about one of the many sectors of infrastructure, including agriculture, food processing plants, and stormwater systems.



Final Project Steps

- Step 1 • Identify a type of infrastructure or infrastructural issue.
- Step 2 • Find a list of stakeholders that are directly affected by or work with this place.
- Step 3 • Find the contact information of these stakeholders in order to schedule an interview bringing up any maintenance concerns or ideas for improvement.
- Step 4 • Visit the designated location if accessible; if not, look at meetings for popular concerns and view the area from Google maps.
- Step 5 • Conduct a 10-20 minute interview with problem posing questions for the stakeholder, trying to incite change. If possible, attend a city meeting as well.

Site Information:

Name of Site: CPSP 349T

Address: ESJ 2101; 4131 Campus Drive, College Park, MD 20742

My Instructors: Mira Azam and Nicole Mogul

The Class's Mission: "We will use STS systems thinking and data collection techniques to map and assess local infrastructure and see how it connects to current scientific, technological, and social issues."

My personal goals while I was there: After taking this class, I hoped to have grown a new appreciation for infrastructure as well as exploring its social and political barriers in relation to proper building techniques and maintenance.

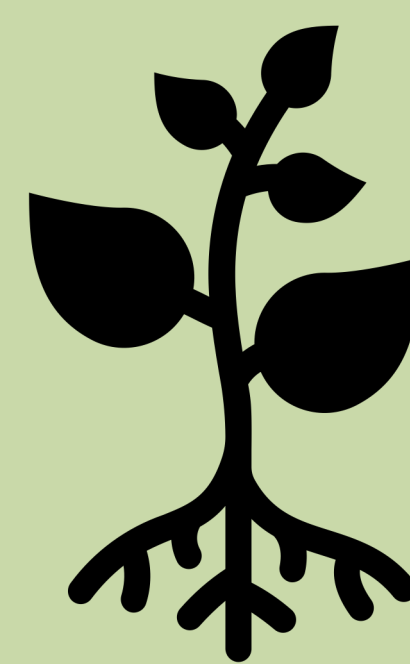
Issues Confronting Buddy Attick Lake Park (Final Project):

While observing the site I noticed...

- 1) Edge of lake was eroding (possible solution: planting water irises)
- 2) Large gathering area with picnic tables w/o any awning
- 3) Large open area going unused for sporting events because of its unevenness.
- 4) Overgrown weeds and lack of maintaining pollinator garden.



Buddy Attick Lake Park-wildflower area and pollinator garden look to be overgrown by weeds and show little to no progress towards planting for upcoming spring season



Results:

After choosing my stakeholder to be Luisa Robles, sustainability coordinator for the public works department of Greenbelt, I conducted my interview with her and brought up any concerns I had with the area and asked for her input on how the city is working to improve the park. The major takeaways from this interview were:

- 1) There is a beaver population coexisting in the park who have been chewing on the tree bark until they fall over, which provoked the city to put up cages around the trees for protection measures.
- 2) There are very little measures being taken to slow down the erosion process. The only official rule is to prohibit mowing the grass too close to the edge of the lake. However, the company responsible for mowing the grass has been disregarding this rule.



Proof of erosion as trees show evidence of being consumed by the lake (Greenbelt).

Impact On My Life:

Since taking this class I have been enlightened about the "infrastructure crisis" our country seems to be going through right now. Sponsors and institutions are very quick to design a new building but lack proper planning to maintain various types of infrastructure once installed.

Future Work:

Although I am not going into a civil engineering profession anymore, I am thankful to have had the opportunity to have taken this class. It has taught me to not be afraid to reach out to local stakeholders if I find a problem in the infrastructure I walk or drive by. Board members are a lot more willing to hear what I have to say for the betterment of their plans than I thought before taking this class.

Acknowledgments:

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