



HARRISONBURG | VA

FRIENDLY BY NATURE



City's HCAP program selected for Alliance for Innovation honor

Municipalities and counties across the nation will soon be following in the footsteps of the City of Harrisonburg's Department of Public Works.

The department's Harrisonburg Conservation Assistance Program (HCAP) was recently selected by the Alliance for Innovation to be featured as an Innovation Showcase at the 2020 Transforming Local Government Conference in Phoenix. The program was selected from more than 100 applications due to its uniqueness and the potential impact HCAP could have on communities looking to address conservation issues in their own neighborhoods.

City staff will present the program to hundreds of other government employees representing numerous cities and counties.

"We are very excited for this opportunity to show other municipalities a program that could go a long way toward helping them mitigate their own stormwater concerns," Harrisonburg City Manager Eric D. Campbell said. "Our Public Works Department is always looking for ways to stay ahead of the curve, and their innovation is key to setting Harrisonburg up for a bright future. We are honored to be able to take part in this great opportunity to share our knowledge and experiences

with our colleagues."

HCAP is a new program run in partnership with the Shenandoah Valley Soil and Water Conservation District that provides cost-share funds and technical assistance to property owners installing stormwater projects in Harrisonburg. Selected projects will improve water quality and alleviate smaller drainage issues, with such projects including rain gardens, permeable pavement, rainwater harvesting, and more.

Residents can apply to take part in the program by Feb. 3, 2020. Staff will help interested property owners fill out a site visit request form to schedule a site visit.

"I'm very proud of our team for being selected for this national honor," Public Works Director Tom Hartman said. "Not only does this validate the hard work our department has put in on creating this unique program, but it also gives us a chance to support local governments throughout the country with something that could make a big difference in the daily lives of their residents."

The Transforming Local Government Conference will take place in May 2020.



(Above) A permeable pavement driveway. Such projects could be supported through the Harrisonburg Conservation Assistance Program.

Public Works to hold two HCAP workshops this month

The City of Harrisonburg's Public Works Department **will host two upcoming workshops** to provide resources on HCAP. Staff will be in the City Hall Lobby on **Tuesday, Nov. 19, and Wednesday, Nov. 20, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.** Interested property owners are invited to stop by at any time during the workshop to discuss the practices that are available through HCAP and what might work best on their properties. "While the focus of these workshops is the Harrisonburg Conservation Assistance Program, we will also have information about the Drainage Improvement Program and Stormwater Utility Fee Credit Program," Harrisonburg Environmental Compliance Manager Rebecca Stimson said. "We are excited to share the different programs available to help property owners enhance their properties, alleviate drainage issues, and reduce their stormwater utility fees." If you are not able to attend the workshops but would still like more information, contact the Public Works Department at (540) 434- 5928.

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