



## MEMORANDUM

October 25, 2010

**TO:** Montgomery County Planning Board

**VIA:** Mary Bradford, Director of Parks  
Mike Riley, Deputy Director of Parks *MR*  
John E. Hench, Ph.D., Chief, Park Planning and Stewardship Division *J. Hench*  
Doug Redmond, Natural Resources Manager, Park Planning and Stewardship Division *D. Redmond*

**FROM:** Jai Cole, Principal Natural Resources Specialist, Park Planning and Stewardship Division *J. Cole*

**PROJECT:** ICC Environmental Stewardship-Compensatory Mitigation Projects PB-116, PB-117 and PB-119 Upper Paint Branch Special Protection Area (SPA) Best Management Practice (BMP) Sites *J. Cole*

**REVIEW TYPE:** Mandatory Referral No. 1005-SHA-1 ICC Environmental Stewardship

**APPLICANT:** Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA)

**APPLYING FOR:** Plan Approval

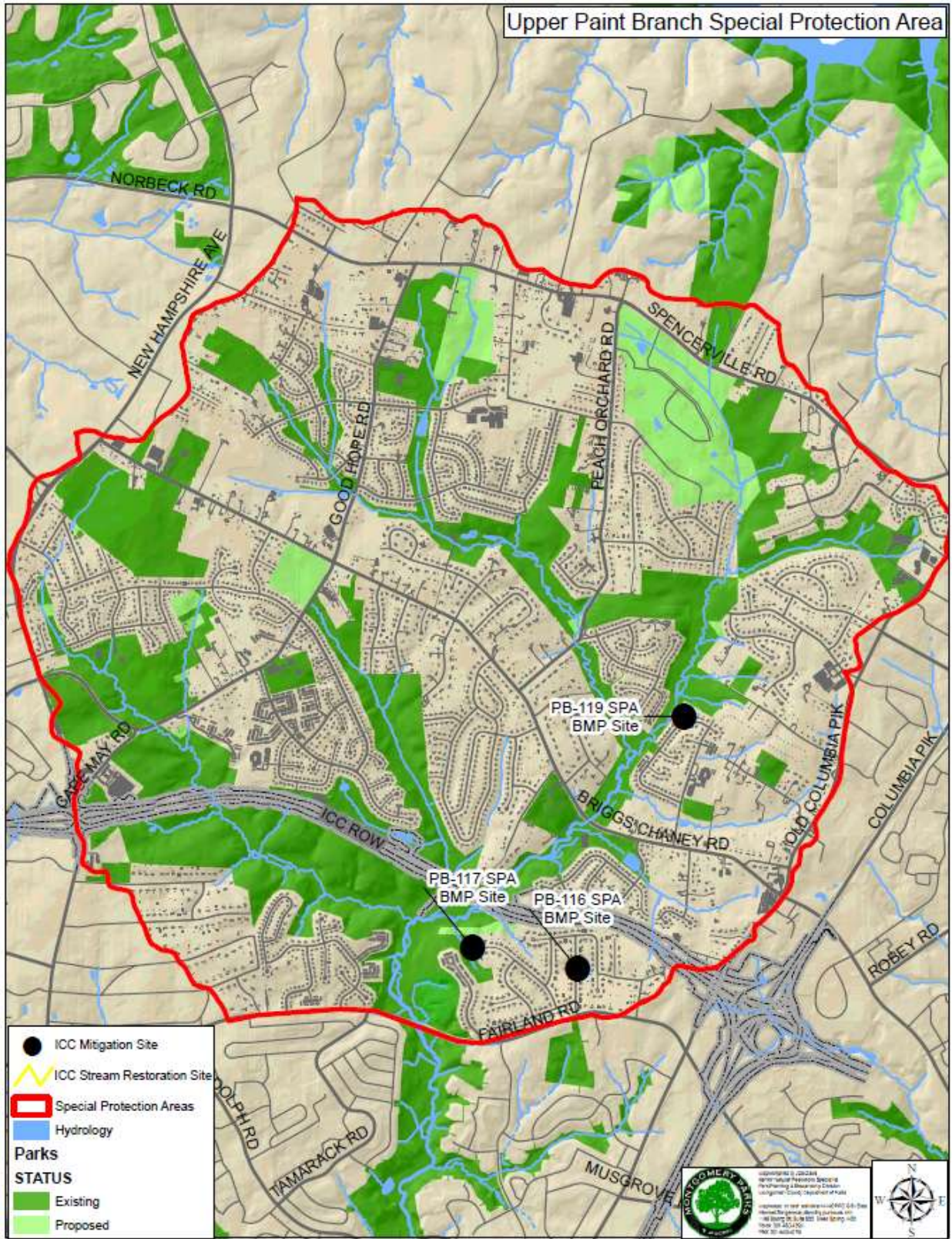
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**RECOMMENDATION: Approve the construction of four Upper Paint Branch Special Protection Area (SPA) Best Management Practice (BMP) Environmental Stewardship projects (PB-116, PB-117 and PB-119) which are located within Montgomery County DOT right of way.**

### Background

As a part of the ICC Environmental Stewardship and Compensatory Mitigation Program, the State Highway Administration (SHA) is completing a number of stream restoration, wetland creation, and stormwater management projects throughout Montgomery County. Many of these projects focus on the Upper Paint Branch SPA due to the impact of the ICC on this watershed's high water quality and unique self-sustaining brown trout population. This contract is comprised of three (3) Upper Paint Branch Special Protection Area (SPA) Best Management Practice (BMP) sites (Figure 1.) All sites are a part of the ICC Project's Environmental Stewardship – Compensatory Mitigation program. These projects were identified during the planning studies and included in the ICC Record of Decision (ROD) in order to address a range of watershed issues within the Upper Paint Branch Special Protection Area.

Figure 1 – SPA BMP Sites



## Biotrenches

Biotrenches are essentially in-line bioretention facilities consisting of an excavated trench approximately four to six feet in depth, filled with specific gradations of stone. The surface of the biotrench is covered with a specific soil mix and planted with turf grass/sod for final stabilization. When completed, the biotrenches will be similar in appearance to the existing grass swales. The following describes the four (4) proposed biotrench projects:

- PB-116: This project, located within DOT ROW along Fairridge Drive, between Fairland Road and Parallel Lane, involves providing biotrench facilities within existing roadside ditches.
- PB-117: These projects, located within the DOT ROW along Creekside Drive from Colefair Drive to the cul de sac, involves providing biotrench facilities within existing roadside ditches.
- PB-119: This project, located within the DOT ROW along Bradshaw Drive and Fairdale Road involves providing biotrench facilities within existing roadside ditches.



**Biotrench in Construction**



**Completed Biotrench**

## Wetland and Stream Impacts

No jurisdictional wetlands or waters are present in the proposed project areas therefore, no impacts are anticipated.

## Maryland Historical Trust

*Cultural or Historic Architectural Resources:* The completed ICC Cultural Resource Studies have not identified any historic properties within the general vicinity of the project. Coordination with MHT is ongoing.

### **Natural Resource Inventory and Forest Stand Delineation (NRI/FSD)**

No forest stands exist within the project areas, therefore no impacts are anticipated as a result of this contract. An exemption of the Forest Conservation Act will be coordinated with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources as required in accordance with the Forest Conservation Act. Strategies for protecting individual trees will be included in the design plans including root pruning, avoidance of critical root zones, and tree protection fencing.

### **Air and Noise**

As proposed, the project is not expected to have any significant affect on traffic within the adjacent communities. Therefore, an environmental traffic noise analysis and assessment was not conducted. The construction phase of the project has the potential to temporarily affect the local ambient air quality by generating dust through activities such as vehicle traffic, excavation, and materials handling. SHA has addressed this possibility by establishing "*Standard Specifications for Construction and Materials*" that specifies procedures to be followed by contractors involved in site work.

### **Traffic Control**

SHA will coordinate with the appropriate staff of the Montgomery County Department of Transportation for construction access and materials transport. The project plans and specifications address maintenance of traffic and safety considerations for access from residential streets and county roads. In areas where communities are adjacent to work areas, blaze orange fencing and signage would be installed for safety purposes

### **Public Meetings**

A meeting was held April 14, 2010 to provide the community an opportunity to review and comment on plans for all three projects. Representatives from each of the neighborhoods were in attendance. Montgomery County DOT and DEP representatives were present and in support of the project which is located within their right of way.

### **Funding**

The proposed environmental stewardship projects are being funded by the Maryland State Highway Administration.

### **Implementation**

Construction is expected to begin May of 2011 following the award of the contract under the normal SHA bid process normally used for similar environmental contracts.

### **Maintenance**

The maintenance and monitoring of the biotrenches and curb extensions is expected to be minimal. Under the agreement with the County, after the projects are accepted for maintenance, these duties will be assumed by MCDEP and County staff.

PC:

Gene Giddens, Deputy Director, Department of Parks

Mike Horrigan, Chief, Northern Region, Department of Parks

Jeff Humerick, Operations Manager, Northern Region, Department of Parks

Mike Little, Park Manager, Olney Manor, Department of Parks

Mitra Pedoeem, Chief, Park Development, Department of Parks

Mark Pfefferle, Chief, Environmental Planning, Department of Planning

John Carter, Chief, Community Based Planning

Andy Frank, Environmental Engineering Section Leader, Park Development, Department of Parks