



Agenda date: November 8, 2001

MEMORANDUM

To: Montgomery County Planning Board

Via: Jeff Zyontz, <sup>11</sup>Chief, County-wide Planning  
John E. Hench, Natural Resources Supervisor,  
Park Planning and Resource Analysis

From: Doug Redmond, Natural Resources Specialist II,  
Park Planning and Resource Analysis Unit

Subject: Lower Rock Creek Stream Restoration and Stormwater Management Projects  
(Sycamore Creek, Turkey Branch, Joseph's Branch)

**Recommendation:** Planning Board approval for MCDEP to construct streambank stabilization and habitat enhancement projects on park and non-park property in the Sycamore Creek, Turkey Branch, and Joseph's Branch stream valleys, including stormwater management facilities in Turkey Branch.

**Background:** Sycamore Creek, Turkey Branch, and Joseph's Branch were identified as priority subwatersheds containing a "poor" stream condition with impervious values greater than 22% in the *Countywide Stream Protection Strategy (1997)*. These subwatersheds also ranked poor with a high prioritization level in the *Rock Creek Watershed Feasibility Study (2001)*.

Sycamore Creek

The proposed Sycamore Creek stream stabilization and habitat enhancement project begins downstream of Dabney Drive in the Manor Woods neighborhood and continues for approximately 6500 feet to just below Russet Road in Rock Creek Stream Valley Unit 7. This section of stream has severely eroding banks, which is causing damage to the private property of many residents. A stream walk public meeting to present the stream restoration plans occurred on August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2001; 30 local citizens attended.

A map of the proposed project areas in the Sycamore Creek subwatershed is attached.

### Turkey Branch

- The proposed Turkey Branch stream stabilization and habitat enhancement project begins downstream of Georgia Avenue continuing under Connecticut Avenue and Veirs Mill Road to the confluence with Rock Creek for a total of 11,000 feet. This project also includes the Aspen Hill Tributary which begins downstream of Independence Street and continues 2,000 feet until the confluence with Turkey Branch. Most of the mainstem of Turkey Branch is in Matthew Henson State Park (managed by M-NCPPC). This stream and tributary also exhibit severely eroding banks that jeopardize many large trees and increase the loss of in-stream habitat features. This portion of the project has been coordinated with the M-NCPPC Matthew Henson Trail project. To reduce the overall impact of the two projects, the access road for the stream restoration will be used as the trail alignment for that portion of the trail.
- The proposed Matthew Henson #1 Stormwater Management Pond is located north of Olympic Street adjacent to Georgia Avenue in Matthew Henson State Park, near the Greenwood Knolls neighborhood. This dry pond will control up to the 100-year storm and manage 105 acres of residential uncontrolled runoff, and reduce the peak flows to the upper portion of Turkey Branch.
- The proposed Matthew Henson #2 Stormwater Management Pond is located south of Ralph Road adjacent to Georgia Avenue on County-owned land adjacent to Matthew Henson State Park, near the Harmony Hills neighborhood. This dry pond will control up to the 100-year storm and manage 109 acres of mixed residential and commercial uncontrolled runoff, and reduce the peak flows to the upper section of Turkey Branch.
- The proposed Peppertree Stormwater Management Pond retrofit is located in the Peppertree farm neighborhood south of Bel Pre Road in Layhill. Retrofitting this existing facility will consist of maximizing the storage volume and removing concrete channels and replacing them with native vegetation to increase aesthetic and habitat features.

A stream walk public meeting to present the stream restoration and stormwater management plans occurred on August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2001; 20 local citizens attended.

Maps of the proposed project areas in the Turkey Branch subwatershed are attached.

### Joseph's Branch

The proposed Joseph's Branch stream stabilization and habitat enhancement project begins downstream of Connecticut Avenue and continues for approximately 6,700 feet to just above Beach Drive. Most of this section of Joseph's Branch is in Rock Creek Stream Valley Unit 4. This project also includes a total of 4,500 feet of restoration on: a) the Rickover Drive tributary, located north of Byrd Road and downstream of Connecticut Avenue (mostly on private property), b) the tributary behind Wheaton High School, parallel to Valleywood Drive (partly in Glenmont Local Park), and c) the tributary within Wheaton-Claridge Local Park off of Claridge Road. These stream sections have severely eroding banks and a substantial loss of in-stream habitat features. A stream walk public meeting to present the stream restoration plans occurred September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2001; 15 local citizens attended.

Maps of the proposed project areas in the Joseph's Branch subwatershed are attached.

The Natural Resources Inventory/Forest Stand Delineation (NRI/FSD) for these projects has been submitted.

**Funding:** These projects are being funded by the Montgomery County Capital Improvements Program, and a grant from the Maryland State Highway Administration.

**Implementation:** If approval is granted, construction is expected to begin the Summer of 2002.

**Maintenance:** Maintenance of stream restoration structures, if necessary, will be coordinated between DEP and M-NCPPC. Maintenance of Stormwater Management structures will be conducted by DEP for Matthew Henson #2, M-NCPPC for Matthew Henson #1, and the Peppertree HOA for the Peppertree facility.

Pc: Donald K. Cochran  
Lester Straw  
Carl Falcone  
Marty Aument  
Jim Humerick  
Tanya Schmeiler  
Mike Riley  
John Carter  
Dan Harper, MC DEP  
Cameron Weigand, MC DEP

# VICINITY MAP FOR SYCAMORE CREEK



Map compiled on October 30, 2001 at 4:22 PM | Site located on base sheet no. 718NW05

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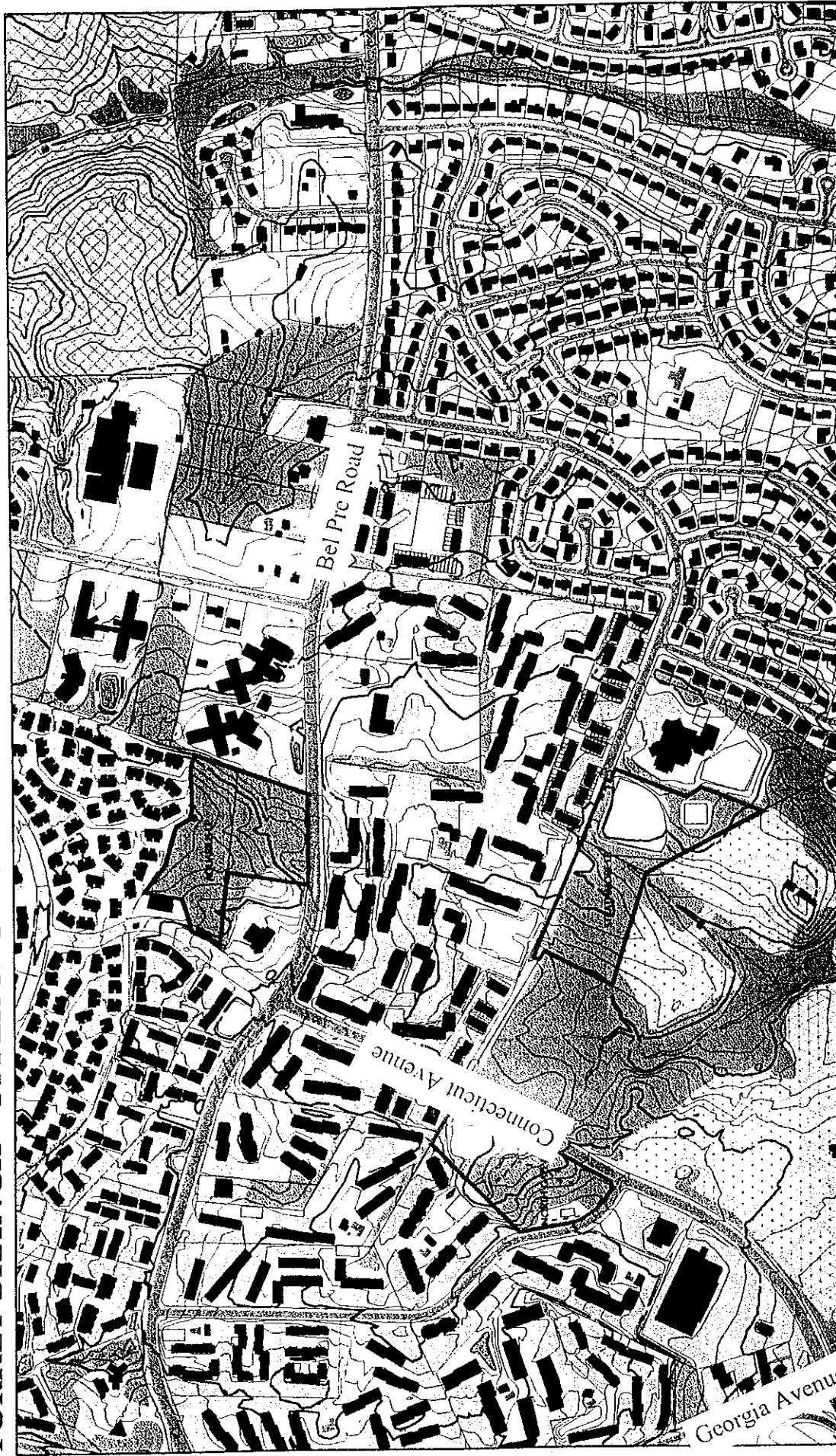
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# VICINITY MAP FOR TURKEY BRANCH - UPPER SECTION



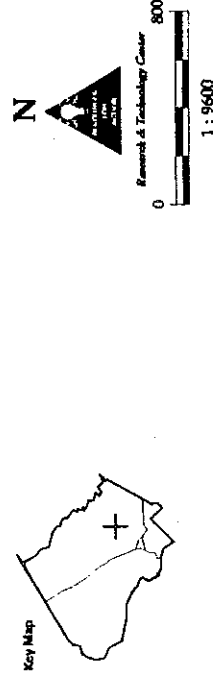
Map compiled on October 31, 2001 at 1:57 PM | Site located on basic sheet no. 218NW03

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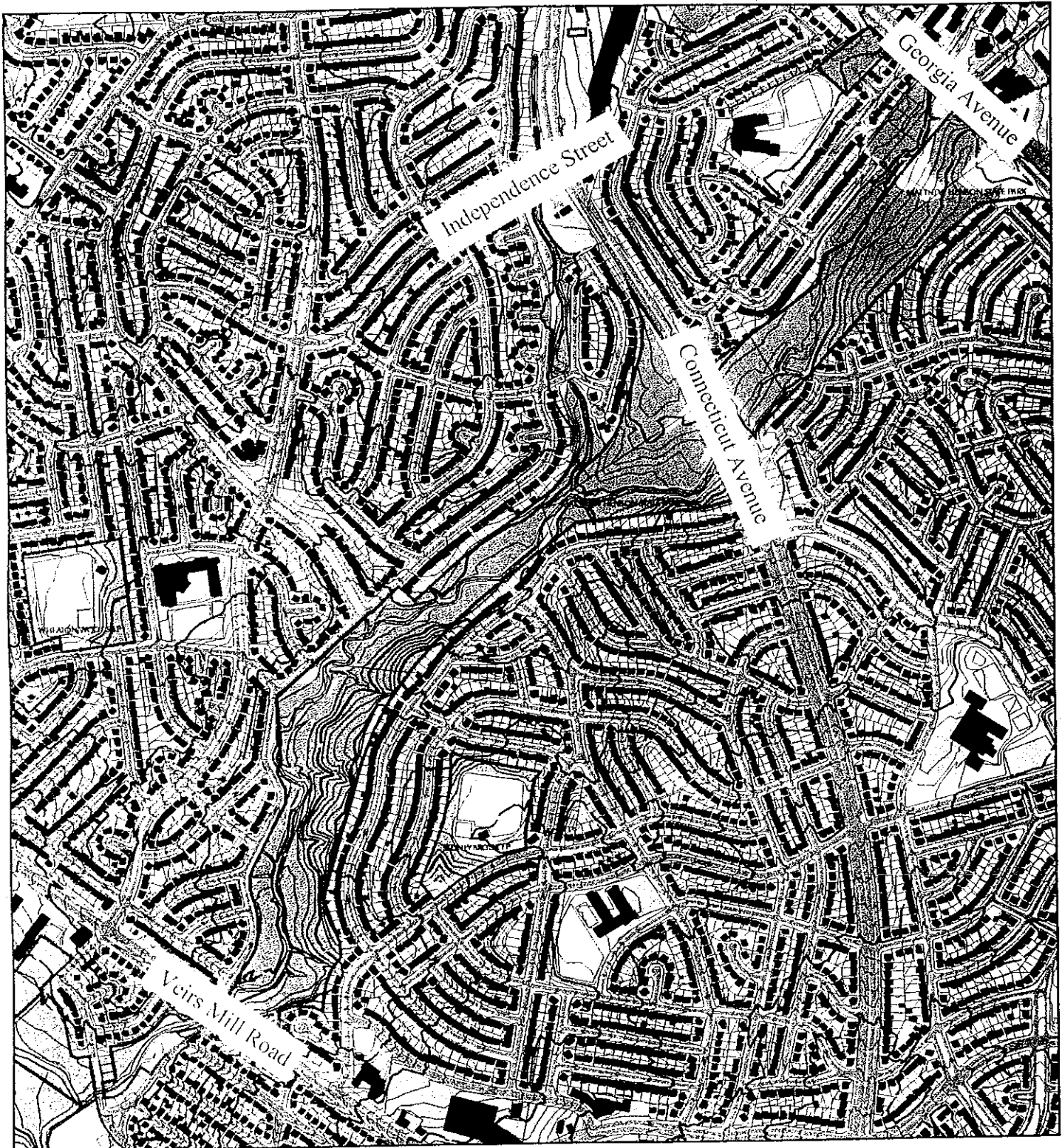
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## TURKEY BRANCH



Map compiled on October 30, 2001 at 4:46 PM | Site located on base sheet no. 217NW04

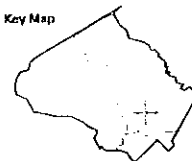
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Key Map



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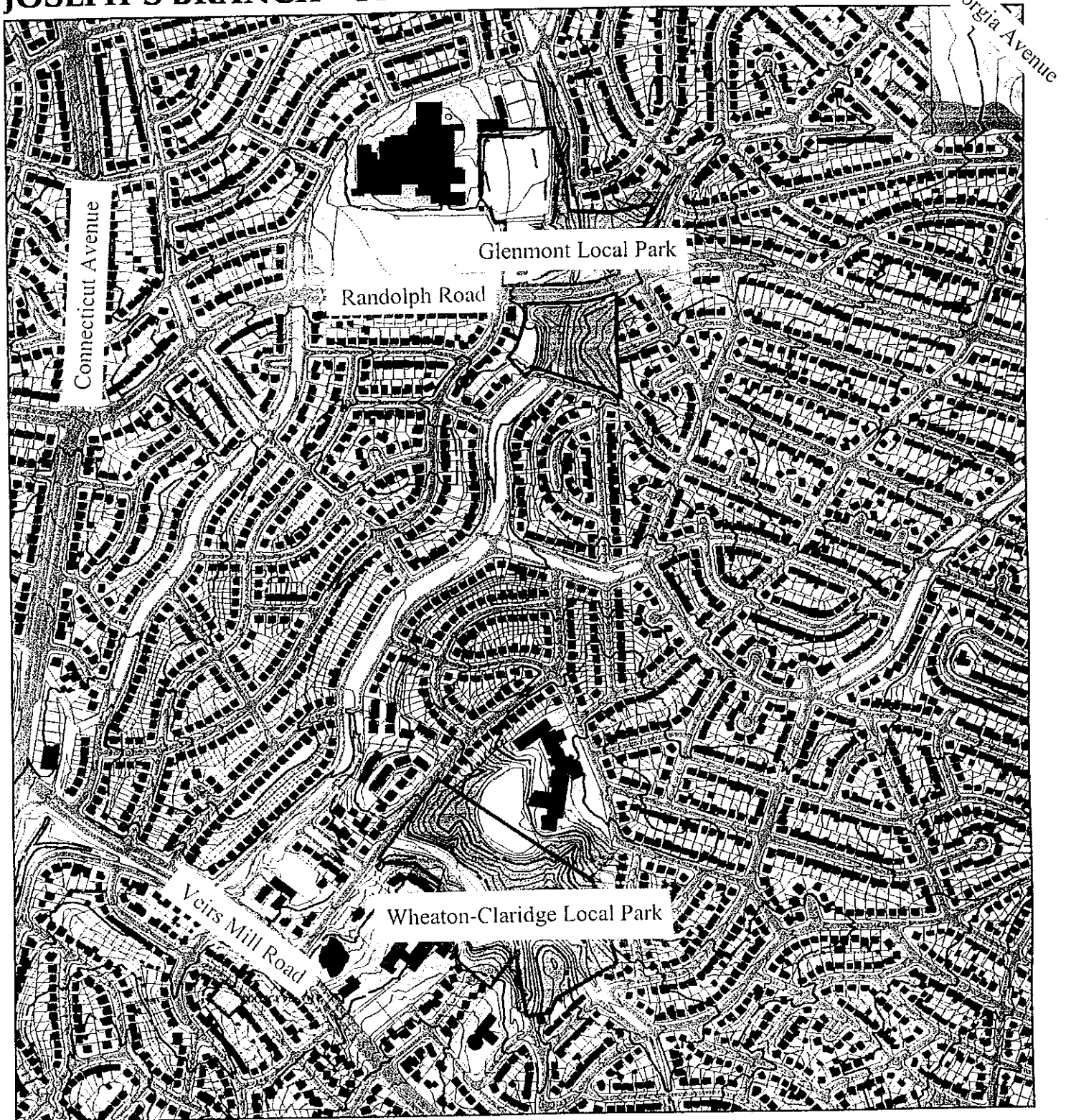
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VICINITY MAP FOR

# JOSEPH'S BRANCH - UPPER SECTION



Map compiled on October 31, 2001 at 8:08 AM | Site located on base sheet no - 218NW03

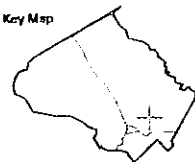
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VICINITY MAP FOR

# JOSEPH'S BRANCH - LOWER SECTION



Map compiled on October 31, 2001 at 8:24 AM | Site located on base sheet no. 215NW04

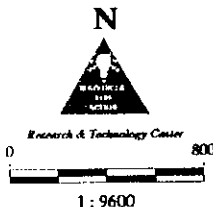
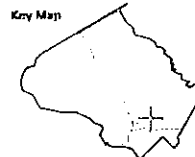
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