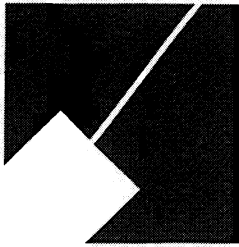


M-NCPPC



MONTGOMERY COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARK AND PLANNING

THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL
PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

8787 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910-3760

Item # 4

Agenda date: February 13, 2003

MEMORANDUM

To: Montgomery County Planning Board

Via: Jeff Zyontz, Chief, Countywide Planning
Jorge A. Valladares, P.E., Chief, Environmental Planning
John E. Hench, Natural Resources Manager, Park Planning and Resources
Analysis Unit

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

Subject: Mandatory Referral 02903-DEP-1: Stoney Creek Stormwater Management
Facility

Recommendation:

Approve the construction of a stormwater management facility on the National Institutes of Health Campus, in the Rock Creek watershed, as described herein.

Background: The Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection is proposing a stormwater management facility along Stoney Creek in Bethesda. A vicinity map and a detailed map of the site are attached. The proposed project was originally identified as a priority site in the National Naval Medical Center Stormwater Management Study (1998) and the Rock Creek Watershed Restoration Action Plan (July 2001). The DEP is pursuing the project, located on the southeast corner of the Bethesda National Institutes of Health (NIH) campus, to capture 204 acres of urban runoff draining the Central Bethesda Business District (CBBB) and a portion of the NIH campus. The site is a strategic location for capturing pollutants and reducing storm flows in the upper watershed, which ultimately benefits the downstream conditions of the Lower Rock Creek watershed. The project fulfills stormwater management requirements mandated by the State, including conditions of the County's NPDES permit, and meets requirements specified in the 1995 NIH master plan. NIH will grant the County a permanent easement for construction and maintenance of the facility. A map of the project area is attached.

Stormwater Management Design Criteria

Quantity Control

The stormwater management structure is designed to reduce peak flows from the 6-month storm to nearly predeveloped conditions. The pond will reduce peak flowrates associated with the 1-year storm (which has the greatest impact in reducing streambank erosion downstream of the pond) by 68%.

Quality Control

The facility will provide 4.61 Ac-ft in “Water Quality Volume” through a combination of wet pond storage and extended detention (i.e., a controlled release of runoff over a 24 hour period). The water quality volume will improve runoff from downtown Bethesda by settling out suspended solids and associated nutrients. A proposed trash and oil collection device incorporated in the design will capture and reduce trash being washed through the stormdrain system.

Other Design Features

A permanent pool and forebay will cover 1.3 acres, with a maximum storage area of 3.3 acres. The maximum permanent pool depth will be 6 feet. Safety benches will be designed to ensure a shallow water depth along the shoreline. Landscaping with native trees, shrubs, herbaceous plants, grasses and wetland vegetation will help to support a diverse and balanced community of amphibians, insects, fishes, and birds. DEP will relocate many of the young trees in the project area and incorporate the trees into the final landscaping plan. Landscaping strategies recommended in the Maryland Department of Natural Resources reference ‘When Resident Geese Become a Problem’ will be incorporated to discourage geese by establishing dense shoreline vegetation. Aerators are planned to increase water circulation to enhance water quality and predatory insect populations. The DEP will introduce native fish and aquatic organisms to assist in creating a balanced ecosystem. In addition to a balanced ecosystem, the DEP will perform proper maintenance, which should deter mosquito breeding.

Maryland Historical Trust

The DEP performed a Phase II archaeological evaluation of the south section of the proposed stormwater management facility. The phase II document concluded that no additional archaeological assessment is required due to past disturbance from golf course construction, and utility line installations (sewer and electrical). The Maryland Historical Trust has reviewed the draft phase II archaeological assessment.

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

The NRI/FSD has been reviewed and approved by M-NCPPC (Environmental Planning). DEP will provide a tree save plan with limits of disturbance and strategies for protecting several large native trees, which could be impacted by grading. Strategies for protecting trees include root pruning, routing of utilities to avoid critical root zones, and tree protection fencing.

Montgomery County Noise Ordinance

The DEP will perform all construction activities in accordance to Section 31 (b) of the County code.

Traffic Impact Statement

The DEP will develop a traffic control plan for a construction entrance proposed along Woodmont Avenue. The DEP will coordinate with the appropriate County and State officials.

Public Meetings

A public meeting was held August 15, 2002 to provided adjacent residents the opportunity to review and comment on preliminary plans for the project. Residents who attended the meeting expressed concerns with issues relating to mosquito breeding, safety, permitting, site design and alternative sites. The DEP has also presented the proposed project design twice to the NIH community Liaison Council (CLC). The first presentation reviewed the project design and the second presentation addressed the DEP's objectives to deter mosquito breeding in stormwater management facilities. DEP held a follow-up field meeting on November 23, 2002 for the community. The residents walked the proposed layout and discussed issues related to landscaping, mosquito breeding, and permitting. Additionally, e-mail messages, from a local resident who is unable to attend the Planning Board session, are attached.

Funding

The proposed stormwater management facility design is being funded by the Montgomery County Capital Improvements Program and construction is support by a County and State matching grant through the State Highway Administration TEA-21 program.

Implementation

If approval is granted, construction is expected to begin the fall of 2003.

Maintenance

The County will perform scheduled structural maintenance and trash removal from the facility.
The County will coordinate with NIH regarding site access for maintenance.

Pc: John Carter
Marilyn Clemens
Kristin O'Connor
Marion Clark
Dominic Quattrocchi
Cameron Weigand

Preller, Barbara

From: gmoreschi [gmoreschi@starpower.net]
Sent: Monday, January 27, 2003 12:41 PM
To: MCP-Chairman
Subject: Stromwater management facility at NIH

RECEIVED
0129
JAN 27 2003

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN
THE MARYLAND NATIONAL CAPITAL

Dear Montgomery County Planning Board;

I received a letter stating that DEP was to discuss the stormwater management facility to be developed at NIH Jan 30 at the Montgomery County Planning Board meeting. I have some serious concerns regarding this project. I would like to attend but do not see it listed on your agenda. Please advise me as to the time it will be discussed and when.

Thank you.

Gail I. Moreschi, M.D., M.P.H.

Redmond, Doug

From: gmoreschi [gmoreschi@starpower.net]
Sent: Sunday, February 02, 2003 11:51 AM
To: Redmond, Doug
Subject: Re: NIH stormwater management facility

Dear Doug,

Thank you for your e-mail regarding the NIH Storm Water Management. I was planning to attend Jan 30 but will not be able to attend during the day Feb 13.

I have lived adjacent to NIH for over 20 years. I have two concerns regarding this project:

1) Mosquitoes and the diseases they carry. If we spray then birds are decreased. We now have malaria in this area of the world.

2) Filth- Who will be responsible to keep it clean? Will in be within the NIH Fence so it is their responsibility? My concern is well founded. I walk my dogs regularly in this area of the NIH grounds. There is a water run-off between the Manor Care and Glen Lane apartment building directly across from the Battery Lane Park. It is always filled with paper debris and never seems to get cleaned out. It is a mess. I am afraid this would happen to a Storm Pond on NIH grounds, that no one would keep it cleaned out and it will be a mess.

If the County does not have funds to staff a well utilized library I am sure they do not have funds to keep this Storm Water Clean.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Gail I. Moreschi, M.D., M.P.H.

----- Original Message -----

From: Redmond, Doug
To: gmoreschi@starpower.net
Cc: Preller, Barbara ; Zyontz, Jeff
Sent: Friday, January 31, 2003 4:12 PM
Subject: NIH stormwater management facility

Dr. Moreschi - I just received a copy of your e-mail inquiring about the Planning Board item that was scheduled for January 30, 2003. This item has been rescheduled for February 13, 2003. If you have further questions please call me at 301-650-4367.

Doug Redmond
Principal Natural Resources Specialist
Park Planning and Resource Analysis Unit



THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 6, 2003

TO: Doug Redmond, Park Planning and Resource Analysis, CWP

VIA: Mary Dolan, Environmental Planning Division *MD*

FROM: Marion Clark, Environmental Planning Division *(M)*

SUBJECT: MR 01202 – NCPC – 1 and MR 01202 – MDE - 4
National Institutes of Health

Staff in the Environmental Planning Unit has reviewed the mandatory referral referenced above. Staff recommends **approval** with the following conditions:

- A Tree Save Plan must be submitted prior to issuance of sedimentation and erosion control permits. This plan shall show the delineation of critical root zones (CRZ) for all specimen trees and limits of disturbance for construction of the proposed pond. Where significant impacts occur (<30% encroachment on critical root zones), all elements of the site layout shall be thoroughly re-examined to minimize the impacts. Consideration shall be given to relocating/realigning sidewalks and utilities and reducing the amount of fill and cut within the CRZ's.
- After disturbance has been minimized, stress reduction measures shall be identified on the plan. The plan shall identify stress reduction measures designed to minimize root destruction and maximize root regrowth. Tree save measures shall include, but not be limited to, pre-construction watering and fertilizing, fencing, root pruning and dead wood pruning of any trees impacted by construction activities. Extraordinary measures such as grid aeration/hydration systems should be examined for the County Champion and specimen trees excessively affected by surrounding grading.
- Mitigation may be required for the removal of specimen trees up to a maximum rate of 2:1 on an inch-per-inch basis. Mitigation may be required for any specimen trees if encroachment on the critical root zone is 30% or more. Potential planting areas shall be shown on the FCP.

Forest Conservation

- 1) An NRI/FSD for the project portion of the NIH campus has been submitted and approved. An NRI/FSD for the entire campus is required by both the county and state for the NIH campus, but is expected to be provided with submission of the 2002 Master Plan Update. There are 19 specimen trees in the immediate vicinity of the proposed project. One is the Black Willow County Champion, a twin 20" tree in fair condition.

Stormwater Management

The NIH campus lies within the Lower Rock Creek watershed designated by the *Countywide Stream Protection Strategy* as a Restoration Area. The overall resource condition for Lower Rock Creek is rated poor due to intensive urban development.

VICINITY MAP FOR
STONEY CREEK SWM FACILITY



Stoney Creek SWM Facility →

Map compiled on January 07, 2003 at 8:34 AM | Site located on base sheet no - 210N005

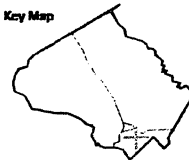
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Property lines are compiled by adjusting the property lines to topography created from aerial photography and should not be interpreted as actual field surveys. Planimetric features were compiled from 1:14400 scale aerial photography using stereo photogrammetric methods.

This map is created from a variety of data sources, and may not reflect the most current conditions in any one location and may not be completely accurate or up to date. All map features are approximately within five feet of their true location. This map may not be the same as a map of the same area plotted at an earlier time as the data is continuously updated. Use of this map, other than for general planning purposes is not recommended. - Copyright 1998

Key Map



N



Research & Technology Center



1 : 24000



Stoney Creek Stormwater Management Facility



NIH Campus

Wisconsin Avenue







Stoney Creek

Proposed Stoney Creek
Stormwater Management Facility

Woodmont Avenue

Bethesda

Legend

-  Buildings
-  Roads
-  Water Surface
-  Property Boundaries
-  Existing Stream
-  Proposed Contour Lines