

Agenda date: February 3, 2005

MEMORANDUM – MANDATORY REFERRAL

TO: Montgomery County Planning Board

VIA: Jeff Zyontz, Chief, Countywide 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 UnitSUBJECT: 1. Forest Conservation Plan: SC-04010, Alta Vista Stream Restoration Project,
Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection, R-60 Zoning,
Bethesda-Chevy Chase Master Plan.

2. Mandatory Referral # 04904-DEP-1: Alta Vista Stream Restoration Project,

Recommendations:

1. **Forest Conservation Plan: SC-04010, Alta Vista Stream Restoration Project:**
Environmental Planning staff recommends approval of the final forest conservation plan (FCP).
2. **Mandatory Referral # 04904-DEP-1: Alta Vista Stream Restoration Project:**
Approve construction of a stream restoration project in the Alta Vista tributary of Rock Creek.

Background: The Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is proposing a stream restoration project along a segment of the Alta Vista tributary of Rock Creek. The 2300 linear foot segment begins at a storm drain outfall at Ellesmere Avenue, crosses under Rockville Pike, and continues under I-495 into Rock Creek. The proposed project, originally identified as a priority stream restoration project during the Rock Creek Watershed Feasibility Study (July 2001), will stabilize a severely degraded stream channel that flows through several residential properties and Locust Hill Neighborhood Park. A vicinity map is attached.

Stream Restoration Design: The proposed project will focus on the overall stability of the stream channel. Over time, the impervious cover has increased storm flows, causing the stream to widen and incise. This process has destabilized the stream banks and exposed utility infrastructure. These cumulative impacts have ultimately degraded the riparian and aquatic conditions along the Alta Vista tributary. This project will help improve channel conditions in areas of severe erosion along private property and stabilize an exposed sewer line and damaged storm drain outfalls. The 60% concept plan has been completed and has been submitted for environmental permit applications.

Maryland Historical Trust: DEP's engineer will acquire archeological clearance from the Maryland Historical Trust, as required for a Joint (wetland) permit application. This stream crosses a residential development, has two major road crossings, and has a WSSC sewer along the entire stream reach, making it an area with extensive prior disturbance.

Forest Conservation Plan (FCP):

The final forest conservation plan has been submitted a part of the environmental review process required for stream restoration projects. Based on the 60% design, the only significant impact anticipated for this project will be the removal of trees whose roots have been severely undercut and exposed by the stream. The steep banks in the areas with undermined trees will be regraded and reforested with the residents' approval. The memo from Environmental Planning approving the final forest conservation plan is attached.

Montgomery County Noise Ordinance: DEP will perform all construction activities in accordance to Section 31 (b) of the County code.

Traffic Impact Statement: DEP will coordinate with the appropriate County officials.

Public Meetings: A public meeting was held on April 22, 2003 to provide adjacent residents an opportunity to review and comment on preliminary plans for the project. Residents who attended the meeting expressed gratification that the erosion problems will be addressed. Additionally, a stream walk with interested residents took place on May 30, 2003.

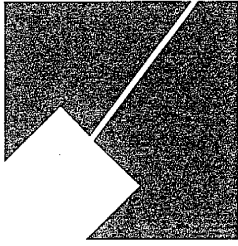
Funding: The proposed stream restoration design and construction is being funded by the Montgomery County Capital Improvements Program and a grant from the Maryland Department of the Environment.

Implementation: If approval is granted, construction is expected to begin in summer of 2005.

Maintenance: Maintenance of stream restoration structures, if required, will be coordinated between DEP and the property owners adjacent to the structures (including M-NCPPC). All County improvement on private property will be located within a permanent County easement. Communications are ongoing to obtain easements from property owners.

Pc: John Carter
Candy Bunnag
Marion Clark
Andy Frank
Brian Murphy
Pete Boettinger
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M-NCPPC



MONTGOMERY COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARK AND PLANNING

THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL
PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 21, 2005

TO: Doug Redmond, Principal Natural Resources Management Specialist, Park Planning and Resources Analysis Unit, Countywide Planning Division

FROM: Candy Bunnag, Planner Coordinator, Environmental Planning Unit, Countywide Planning Division

SUBJECT: DEP Alta Vista Stream Restoration Project -- Forest Conservation Plan, SC-04010

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Approval of the final forest conservation plan.

DISCUSSION

This forest conservation plan covers DEP's proposed stream restoration project along a segment of the Alta Vista Tributary of Rock Creek. This segment of the stream valley, which is located southwest of I-495, traverses through the back yards of several residential lots and Locust Hill Neighborhood Park. Roughly 2300 linear feet of degraded stream will be restored through stream bank stabilization, stream habitat creation, some buffer regrading, and revegetation.

About 5.2 acres of existing forest exist on the group of residential lots and the neighborhood park that lie within the project area. There are also individual trees outside the forest. The project proposes to clear individual trees, mostly within the forest, in order to install the stream improvement features. Replanting with native trees and shrubs will occur along and adjacent to the stream banks with the property owners' approval. The proposed project meets the requirements of the forest conservation law.

ALTA VISTA STREAM RESTORATION PROJECT



Map compiled on January 13, 2005 at 10:21 AM | Site located on base sheet no - 212NW05

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Key Map

Research & Technology Center

1 inch = 400 feet
1 : 4800