

Four Mile Run Restoration Project e-Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 2

April / May 2008

Introduction

Welcome to the second edition of the Four Mile Run Restoration Project electronic newsletter! This bimonthly newsletter provides information regarding ongoing activities, meetings, or events related to this initiative. This edition focuses on the current efforts to develop a set of design guidelines for the restoration project.

Overview of the Design Guidelines Effort

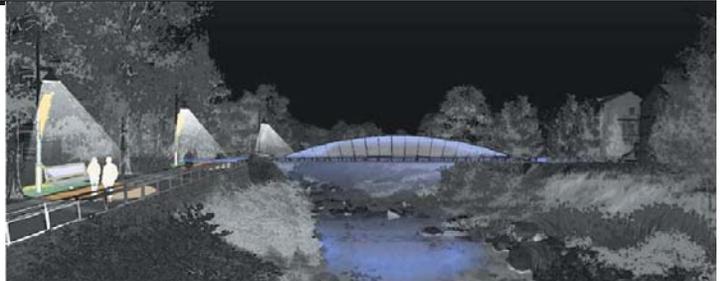
Staff from Arlington, Alexandria, the Northern Virginia Regional Commission (NVRC), and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), as well as citizen representatives from Arlington County and the City of Alexandria on the Joint Task Force (JTF), have embarked upon an exciting effort to develop design guidelines for the restoration project. These guidelines will ensure a consistent look and feel for the restoration project. This endeavor will make it easier to repeat design elements throughout the stream corridor and its adjacent areas, even if they are initiated over a period of years. Finally, the new and improved Four Mile Run will be compatible with, and in many cases will enhance, the existing neighborhoods in surrounding communities.

Project staff will work with a consultant team from Rhodeside and Harwell, Inc. (RHI) to develop the design guidelines. RHI not only provides experience in the design guidelines arena, but they also played a significant consultory role in developing the Four Mile Run Restoration Project Master Plan. RHI will have produced a preliminary draft by May, and the public will have an opportunity to comment on the guidelines in June.

The guidelines should be completed by the end of 2008, with the final product serving as a companion document to the Master Plan. The design guidelines will provide a vision to local staff, developers, and the USACE, that facilitates consistency in all undertakings within the restoration project area.

Making the Master Plan's Vision a Reality

Chapter 5 of the Master Plan outlines the restoration project's general design principles: 1) the utilization of green design features with options for channel restoration and stabilization, stormwater management, and green buildings; 2) the creation and improvement of public spaces such as trails and pedestrian bridges, plazas and promenades, green open space, sports facilities, and public art; and 3) the development of high quality structures with consistent form, orientation, setbacks, and architectural components.



The above image, taken from the Master Plan, illustrates a composite of the factors that the design guidelines process will consider.

While the Master Plan contains the guiding elements for the restoration project, the design guidelines effort will produce a more specific set of standards that will govern all activities that occur within the restoration project corridor. The design guidelines companion document will address the general appearance, quality, texture, materials, and spacing of numerous components within the restored stream corridor. Associated elements include: urban redevelopment opportunities, structures, bridges, perimeter, entries, paths, seating, lighting, channel restoration, daylighting, and habitat restoration.



Examples of Design Guidelines

The City of Alexandria and Arlington County maintain numerous sets of design guidelines for various neighborhoods within their communities. Staff will utilize these existing documents to develop a compatible framework for Four Mile Run. Utilize the links below to view sample design guidelines:

- Potomac Yards Urban Design Guidelines - Alexandria
- Arlandria Small Area Plan - Alexandria
- Nauck Village Center Action Plan - Arlington

Upcoming Public Open House

The Four Mile Run Restoration Project's JTF tentatively is planning a public open house for June 2008, during which all parties interested in Four Mile Run will be invited to provide input into the design guidelines effort. If you have received this e-newsletter, you will receive an invitation to this meeting as details regarding location and date are determined.

Additional Information

To subscribe to this newsletter, send an-email to NVRC's Four Mile Run Manager, Laura Grape, at lgrape@novaregion.org. To learn more about the restoration project, visit NVRC's website at <http://www.novaregion.org/index.asp?NID=213>.



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