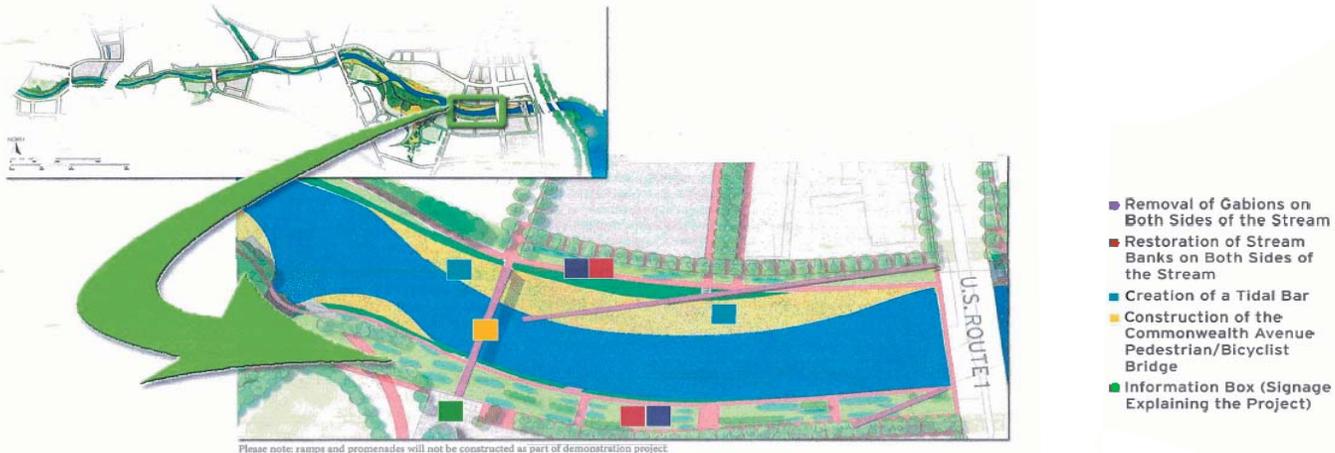


Four Mile Run Restoration Project e-Newsletter

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This image, taken from the Four Mile Run Restoration Project Master Plan, depicts the components of a tidal demonstration project that includes the construction of a pedestrian/cyclist bridge and numerous environmental restoration efforts.

Welcome to the third 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 issue focuses on the upcoming Tidal Demonstration Project (TDP).

Genesis of the Tidal Demonstration Project

The TDP constitutes the first undertaking within the Four Mile Run Restoration Project that will bring visible, 'on-the-ground' changes to the Four Mile Run Corridor. The Four Mile Run Restoration Project Master Plan outlines the TDP, which spans from Mount Vernon Avenue to Potomac Yard. Arlington County and Alexandria City planners on the Agency Coordination Group (ACG), along with members of the public Joint Task Force (JTF), created the following criteria for the TDP:

- 1) Ties together Arlington and Alexandria;
- 2) Demonstrates environmental, engineering, and design improvements;
- 3) Creates visible, positive change for the corridor;
- 4) Minimally affects future in-stream restoration work;
- 5) Meets the anticipated budget, or identifies alternative strategies for meeting that budget;
- 6) Does not require land acquisition; and
- 7) Incorporates the existing transmission lines.

After considerable discussion and analysis, the ACG and JTF agreed upon a preferred direction for the TDP that met the criteria established in the Master Plan. Proposed components of the TDP included:

- 1) Gabion removal or modification;
- 2) Stream bank restoration;
- 3) Tidal wetland creation;
- 4) Construction of the Commonwealth Avenue / South Eads Street pedestrian/cyclist bridge;
- 5) Litter control; and
- 6) Information boxes and interpretive signage.

While the ACG and JTF hope to incorporate each of these features into the restoration project, they recognize that the changing nature of Four Mile Run may not make such a proposition possible. For example, though the Master Plan articulated 'removal of gabions,' the protective nature of these structures could necessitate their preservation. Opportunities for habitat and aesthetic enhancement will be explored around the gabions.

NVRC Releases Request for Proposals

In May 2008, NVRC released a request seeking proposals from qualified architectural and engineering firms for a contract to design the TDP. Specifically, this phase of the project includes:

- 1) Developing a complete design for wetland, streambank, and riparian restoration between Mount Vernon Avenue and the Potomac River; and
- 2) Providing construction oversight of the TDP implementation following the completion of the design process.

The ACG hopes to negotiate a contract with an Architectural-Engineering firm in August 2008, with work beginning in September 2008. A design competition for the Commonwealth Avenue / South Eads Street pedestrian-cyclist bridge will occur separately from the in-stream tidal corridor restoration design and construction. All project components and dates are subject to change.

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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