



ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION

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2100 CLARENDON BOULEVARD
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22201



March 7, 2006

Hon. Christopher Zimmerman, Chairman
Arlington County Board
Courthouse Plaza One, Suite 300
Arlington, VA 22201

Dear Chris:

At the Park and Recreation Commission's January 24, 2006 meeting, the Commission received a briefing on the proposed draft Four Mile Run Stream Restoration Master Plan. The master plan briefing was presented by Neal Sigmon, Co-Chair of the Four Mile Run Stream Restoration Joint Task Force (JTF), a County/City Manager appointed citizen panel. As you know, Mr. Sigmon is also Vice-Chair of the Park and Recreation Commission.

The Park and Recreation Commission voted unanimously to endorse the proposed draft Four Mile Run Stream Restoration Master Plan and strongly recommend the County Board adopt the Plan. The Commission commends the Joint Task Force and recognizes its critical role in shaping the Plan's guiding principles: recreation and urban life, flood protection, environment, aesthetics, design, access, connectivity, education and interaction. The development of the draft Four Mile Run Restoration Master Plan in collaboration with the city of Alexandria, the Northern Virginia Regional Commission, the US Environmental Protection Agency and US Army Corps of Engineers serves as a model for how two jurisdictions and Federal agencies can work together to develop a vision for the lower Four Mile Run corridor.

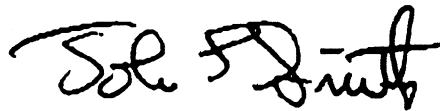
The Commission notes that the adoption of the Four Mile Run Stream Restoration Master Plan is Priority 3- "Emphasize Planning for Four Mile Run" of the recently adopted Public Spaces Master Plan (2005). The Commission is enthusiastic about the possibilities of new and enhanced recreational opportunities as well as interaction with the stream. The Commission also supports the demonstration project, which is the first step toward implementation of this long-term project.

The demonstration project as recommended by the JTF and identified in the master plan, targets the area between the Route 1 bridge over Four Mile Run to Commonwealth Avenue/Eads Street. In this tidal portion of the stream, gabions would be removed from both sides of the stream, a tidal wetland bar would be created and stream banks restored on both sides of the stream. Other features would include a pedestrian/bicyclist bridge to link Eads Street to Commonwealth Avenue, litter control and an information kiosk.

The Commission believes that moving forward with this demonstration project will enable the vision of the Plan in the eyes of both community and sponsors. A successful demonstration project will provide evidence of project benefits and help sustain adequate financial resources for long-term implementation of the Four Mile Run Stream Restoration Plan.

The Commission would like to thank the County Board for the opportunity to review and comment on the proposed draft Four Mile Run Stream Restoration Master Plan.

Sincerely,



Tobin L. Smith
Chair,
Park and Recreation Commission

Cc: County Board Members
Ron Carlee, County Manager
Scott McPartlin, Staff Coordinator