

Current Project

The current phase of work is being coordinated under a US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) feasibility study. Development of the feasibility study is expected to span three years. During this phase, studies will be conducted regarding the hydrology (rain and watershed) and hydraulic (stream flow including flooding) characteristics, project alternatives, expected costs, and impacts related to the project.



The feasibility document will include all facets of the study and will include concept plans with recommendations for a possible third phase, construction. At the completion of the feasibility study a determination will be made by the USACE and the localities regarding whether or not to proceed to a construction phase.

Early during the feasibility study, project leadership will select a demonstration project for construction. This demonstration project will be representative of the overall goals of the larger project being considered through the feasibility study. What this project will be has not yet been decided. The Joint Task Force will provide input towards project formulation.

Your Participation

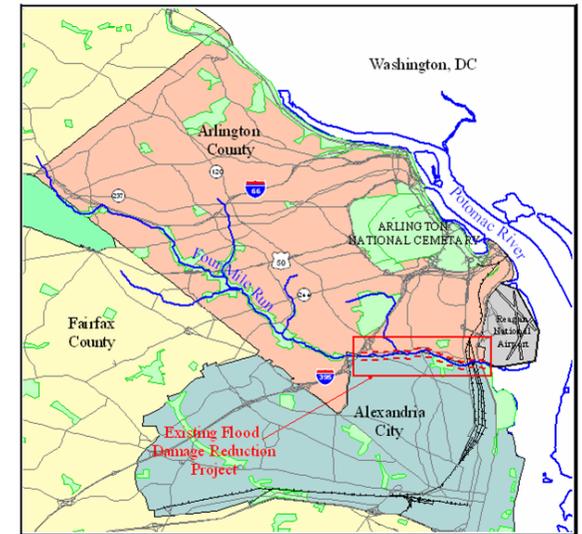
The Joint Task Force will be holding public meetings this year to generate public interest for the project and to solicit public input. The form that the project will ultimately take will be reflective of the inputs that the Joint Task Force receives. The final project will likely combine environmental restoration and urban design features along the length of the run. Your insights and opinions are needed to develop a project that best reflects the values of the community. Please watch for meeting announcements and other opportunities to participate with this project.



If you would like to learn more please visit our website at <http://www.novaregion.org/restoration.htm> .

Alternatively, you may contact Bill Hicks, P.E., at bhicks@novaregion.org or by phone at 703-642-4628.

Four Mile Run Restoration Project



An Exciting Joint Project Sponsored by:

**Arlington County
City of Alexandria
US Environmental Protection Agency
US Army Corps of Engineers
Congressman Jim Moran
Northern VA Regional Commission**

Earth Day 2004

Four Mile Run Restoration Project

Four Mile Run is a 9-mile stream in a highly urbanized area in Northern Virginia just outside of the District of Columbia. Its 19-square mile watershed covers portions of Arlington and Fairfax Counties and the Cities of Alexandria and Falls Church. The lower portion of Four Mile Run, from I-395 at the upstream end to the mouth at National Airport, is contained in a hardened flood control channel and marks a rough boundary between Arlington County and the City of Alexandria. This section also offers an exciting opportunity for environmental and community restoration.

Previous Flooding

Along this stretch of Four Mile Run are neighborhoods, commercial districts and a few industrial facilities, including the Arlington County Water Pollution Control Plant. Because of the highly urbanized nature of the Four Mile Run watershed, the neighborhoods and businesses adjacent to this portion of the run were subjected to repeat flooding beginning in the 1940's.



Channelization

In response to this flooding, the municipalities forged a partnership with US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to build a flood control channel in the lower portion of Four Mile Run. Construction of that channel took place during the 1970's and early 1980's. Since its completion, over twenty years ago, the channel

has safely conveyed the high storm flows through the two jurisdictions and prevented the floods so common in earlier years.



When the channelization project of Four Mile Run was conceived in the 1960's, the sole objective of the project was flood protection and, to that end, the project has been a success; no floods have occurred along the 2.3 mile channel since its construction. Although successful in flood control, with respect to aesthetic and environmental attributes the channeled section of Four Mile Run leaves much to be desired.

Environmental Degradation

The maintenance requirements for the channel have meant yearly thinning of vegetation and periodic excavation of the sediment that deposits on the channel bed. The nearly uniform trapezoidal shape of the channel does not offer the riffles, pools and shady areas needed to sustain much of the aquatic life once found in Four Mile Run.



Cooperation

Through an exciting partnership and coincidence of effort and funds, citizens and staff from Arlington County and the City of Alexandria, the Northern Virginia Regional Commission, the US Environmental Protection Agency, the US Army Corps of Engineers and Congressman Moran's office have been developing a project to restore the channelized portion of Four Mile Run. Benefits of restoring Four Mile Run include an enhancement of aquatic (in-stream) and riparian (adjacent-to-stream) habitat and establishment of the run as a focal point reflecting its value as a community resource.



An 18-member citizen taskforce was formed in early summer 2003. The task force is comprised of citizens from both jurisdictions. Members of the task force were appointed by the chief administrative officers of each jurisdiction. The task force will examine project alternatives, gather public input and make recommendations to the project's agency coordination group. A list of task force members and an archive of meetings is kept on the project website at <http://www.novaregion.org/restoration.htm>.

