Cooperation

Through an exciting partnership and coincidence of efforts 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 Jim Moran’s office have been working collaboratively toward the restoring the channelize portion of Four Mile Run.

A citizen-led Joint Task Force (JTF), with representatives appointed by the chief administrative officers of each jurisdiction, examines project alternatives, gathers public input, and provides recommendations to the project’s Agency Coordination Group (ACG). Members of the ACG represent the various local, regional, and federal government agencies involved in the planning and implementation of the restoration effort. A list of JTF members and an archive of meeting summaries are available on the project website.

Your Participation
The Joint Task Force host public meetings to generate public interest for the project and to solicit public input on various topics. The success of the project will ultimately be reflective of the input that the JTF receives. Public insights and opinions are needed to develop and implement a project that best reflects the values of the community.

Contact Us
To learn more about the Four Mile Run Restoration Project, visit www.novaregion.org/fourmilerun
To sign-up and receive periodic updates and solicitations for public input, please contact the Northern Virginia Regional Commission at info@novaregion.org or 703-642-0700.

The Four Mile Run Agency Coordination Group (ACG) is a multi-disciplined team representing Arlington County, the City of Alexandria, the Northern Virginia Regional Commission, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the two co-chairs of the citizen Joint Task Force. The ACG guides the planning and implementation of restoration projects along the lower Four Mile Run corridor.

Four Mile Run Restoration Project
A joint project sponsored by:
- Arlington County
- City of Alexandria
- US Environmental Protection Agency
- US Army Corps of Engineers
- Congressman Jim Moran
- Northern Virginia Regional Commission
Why Restore the Run?

A river or a stream is often considered a treasured feature of a community or a focal point uniting neighborhoods. This is not the case with the Four Mile Run levee corridor, which profoundly demarks the separation between the City of Alexandria and Arlington County, with its arrow-straight, 250-feet wide channel. The concept that the stream is something to ignore as merely a drainage ditch that carries flood waters away from the urban areas is evident as development along this corridor face away from the stream.

Arlington County and the City of Alexandria are looking to breathe new life into this neglected waterway and its surrounding community. The March 2006 Master Plan chisels out a locally-defined vision, striking a balance between meeting the needs of the urban community and environmental goals.

Historic Challenges

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 the US Army Corps of Engineers to build a flood control channel in the lower portion of Four Mile Run. Construction of the channel took place during the 1970’s and early 1980’s. Since its completion, the channel has safely conveyed the high storm flows through the two jurisdictions and prevented the floods so common in earlier years.

The sole objective of the channelization project is flood protection. In this regard, it has been a success; no floods have occurred in the 2.3 mile channel since construction. However, the waterway lacks aesthetic and environmental attributes.

Environmental Degradation: The resulting 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.

The Master Plan envisions that the Four Mile Run corridor will become a model of urban ecological restoration. Through the sensitive and sustainable integration of natural areas with active urban nodes, the Four Mile Run corridor will be a place along which the communities of Arlington County and the City of Alexandria can gather, recreate and celebrate a shared waterfront legacy.

Four Mile Run Restoration Master Plan
Guiding Principles

- Flood Protection
- Environment
- Aesthetics and Design
- Recreation and Urban Life
- Integration and Balance
- Access and Connectivity
- Education and Interaction
- Planning Horizon