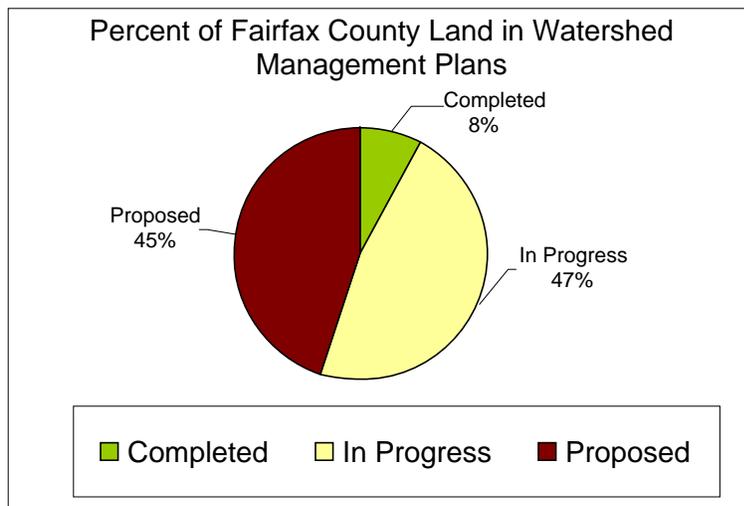


2005 Fairfax County Stormwater Status Report on the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System for Fairfax County, Virginia

I. Watershed Management Planning

Watershed management plans are one component of the Virginia Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit requirements and the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors' Environmental Agenda Elements (Appendix B) program of maintaining safe and caring communities, protecting the environment, and promoting environmental stewardship. Two watershed management plans have been completed and are being implemented. Four additional plans are being drafted with anticipated completion in 2006. Combined these six plans will cover 55 percent of the land area in the county. Within the next few years watershed management plans will be completed for the entire county. The watershed plans provide an assessment of stormwater conditions, encourage public involvement, and prioritize recommendations for implementation within each watershed.

The goals of the plans include protecting and meeting state and federal water quality standards by identifying strategies to prevent and remove pollution, to support Virginia's commitment under the Chesapeake Bay 2000 Agreement to clean up and restore the bay, to replace the current 1970s-era



watershed management plans, and to restore and protect the county's streams and enhance property values. Additionally, these plans will provide a consistent basis for the evaluation and implementation of solutions for protecting and restoring the health of receiving water, the ecological systems, and other natural resources of the county.

The development of comprehensive watershed management plans commenced in 2003 with the Little Hunting Creek Watershed. The plans include the following tasks: 1) review

and synthesis of previous studies and data compilation; 2) evaluation of current conditions and a projection of ultimate development conditions; 3) development of non-structural and structural watershed management alternatives; 4) capital project implementation options including preliminary cost estimates, cost/benefit analysis, and prioritization; 5) Public involvement; and 6) documentation of the watershed management plan. The status of current watershed planning projects in 2005 is as follows:

Cameron Run

The Cameron Run watershed drains a 42-square-mile area of Northern Virginia, with 33-square-miles of this area located in Fairfax County. The remaining area lies within the Cities of Falls Church and Alexandria. The watershed has a long history of urbanization. The majority of land in the watershed was developed by the early 1970s, with an estimated five percent remaining vacant today. The Cameron Run watershed has a high degree of impervious surface resulting in substantial impacts to the streams in the watershed.

The Cameron Run watershed management planning process was initiated in 2003. An advisory committee, comprised of approximately 15 watershed residents representing diverse interests, was formed to assist in developing the plan. The committee assisted staff with the identification of problems with degraded streams and other natural resources in Cameron Run and provided input on a number of alternative solutions for protecting and restoring these resources. A draft Cameron Run Watershed Management Plan was released and made available for comments at a public meeting in June, 2005. Comments received on the draft plan are currently being incorporated into the plan. Field visits to evaluate projects in the draft plan were completed in December, 2005. Of the 235 candidate projects presented in the draft plan, it is anticipated that approximately 100 will be identified as highest priority, and these projects will be modeled and evaluated in detail. The other candidate projects will be included in the plan at the level of detail shown in the draft plan. A draft final plan for presentation to the advisory committee and public will be completed by March/April, 2006, and it is anticipated that the final plan will be presented to the Board of Supervisors in the fall, 2006.

Cub Run/Bull Run

The Cub Run/Bull Run watersheds drain a 47-square-mile area of Northern Virginia, with 35-square-miles of this area located within Fairfax County. This area has undergone rapid growth over the past 20 years. Western portions of the watershed were down-zoned to protect water quality in the Occoquan Reservoir. This zoning protects portions of the watershed from high density development.

The Cub Run/Bull Run watershed management planning process was initiated in 2004. The watershed plan is being developed with guidance from a community advisory committee comprised of approximately 28 residents representing diverse groups and interests in the watershed. The committee has met over the past year to help identify problems in the watershed, develop solutions, and review the watershed management plan. Significant outreach to residents and businesses living, working, and recreating in the watershed has been conducted through three public forums, numerous homeowners association and special interest group presentations, and a watershed tour. Through presentations to the committee and at other public events, the level of watershed and stormwater awareness in the western portion of the county has increased. At the same time, six major issues were identified for various types of structural and nonstructural projects and numerous problem areas and hot spots were located. The final watershed management plan for Cub Run is scheduled for completion by fall, 2006.

Difficult Run

The Difficult Run watershed is the largest watershed in Fairfax County, draining 60-square-miles. The watershed is substantially developed, primarily in residential uses. Even though further residential subdivisions followed, as late as 1976 approximately half of the watershed remained in forest or agriculture. This area was subsequently developed and by the 1990s, most of the watershed was built out, including a major commercial corridor which was established after the Dulles Toll Road was opened in 1984. The remaining open space is primarily in park land.

The Difficult Run watershed management planning process was initiated in 2004. The watershed plan was developed with guidance from a steering committee comprised of approximately 20 stakeholders representing diverse groups and interests in the watershed. In 2005, the steering committee attended six

monthly meetings and hosted the Watershed Forum and Draft Plan Workshop. Because of the size of the watershed, the Watershed Forum was presented twice with the option of a children's watershed forum, and the Draft Plan Review Workshop was presented three times with an additional presentation given to the residents near the site of the suggested regional pond, D-40. The consultant and county are currently addressing feedback from the committee, residents, and other agencies on the draft plan presented at the Draft Plan Review Workshops. The final watershed management plan for Difficult Run is slated for completion by summer, 2006.

Little Hunting Creek

The Little Hunting Creek watershed drains 11-square-miles of Fairfax County. The majority of the land use is residential with commercial areas located around Route 1 - Richmond Highway. The watershed is approximately 92 percent developed.

The Little Hunting Creek watershed management planning process was initiated in 2003. The watershed plan was developed with guidance from a steering committee comprised of approximately 15 residents representing diverse groups and interests in the watershed. The committee met for over one and a half years to help identify problems in the watershed, develop solutions, and review the watershed management plan. Four public forums were held for residents living, working, and recreating in the watershed in order to collect information about problem areas in the watershed, raise awareness about issues facing Little Hunting Creek, and get feedback regarding the draft watershed management plan. The final watershed management plan for Little Hunting Creek was approved by the Board of Supervisors on February 7, 2005. The plan includes a myriad of projects endorsed by residents such as stream restoration, rain barrel implementation, riparian vegetation buffer restoration, water quality improvements to existing stormwater facilities, and recommended modifications to the County Code and other supporting documents such as the Public Facilities Manual for the improvement of watersheds. Approximately 34 capital projects have been initiated and five are now complete. Additional projects and other recommendations of the plan will be initiated and funded through the annual budget process.

Pimmit Run and Middle Potomac

The Middle Potomac watersheds drain 26-square-miles of Fairfax County and encompass five separate watersheds: Pimmit Run, Bull Neck Run, Scotts Run, Dead Run, and Turkey Run. The majority of the land use is forested and low intensity residential with commercial areas located around Interstate 495 - the Capital Beltway.

The Middle Potomac watershed management planning process began in 2004. The watershed plan was developed with guidance from a steering committee comprised of approximately 20 stakeholders representing diverse backgrounds and interests in these five watersheds. The steering committee and the public have been instrumental in identifying the locations of specific problem areas in these watersheds, for example, flooding locations, severe streambank erosion, and opportunities to implement low impact development. Ten steering committee meetings and three public workshops were held in 2005. The first public workshop, held on February 15, 2005, was the Issue Scoping Forum. Participants were educated about watershed issues and asked to help identify the key problems in each watershed. At the April 16 workshop, attendees were further educated about the watersheds and asked to mark problem areas on maps. The steering committee then worked with the county and consultants to compile a list of projects to address these problems and then developed a draft plan. One area named the Tysons Corner area, has plans for major redevelopment in the Scotts Run watershed, so the group is working closely with the county agencies involved and the Tysons Corner Coordination Committee.

The draft plan was presented at the Draft Plan Review Workshop, held on November 1, 2005. County staff and consultants then presented the draft plan at a meeting of the Pimmit Hills Homeowners

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Association as well as the McLean Civic Association. The final watershed management plan for the Middle Potomac is slated for completion in summer, 2006.

Popes Head

The Popes Head Creek watershed drains 19-square-miles of Fairfax County. Portions of the watershed were down zoned to protect water quality in the Occoquan Reservoir. This zoning protects portions of the watershed from high density development. Most of the watershed remains forested with low density residential development being the predominant urban land cover.

The Popes Head Creek watershed management planning process began in 2003. A steering committee, comprised of approximately 17 watershed residents representing diverse interests, was formed to assist in developing the plan. The committee has been meeting to help identify problems in the watershed, develop solutions, and review the watershed management plan. The Final Popes Head Creek Watershed Management Plan Public Review Workshop was held on April 12, 2005, and focused on final comments and recommendations related to the completion of the watershed plan. The plan was adopted by the Board of Supervisors in January, 2006. The plan includes various projects endorsed by residents such as stream restoration, low impact development projects, riparian vegetation buffer restoration, water quality improvements to existing stormwater facilities, road and culvert improvements, and recommended modifications to the County Code and other supporting documents such as the Public Facilities Manual for the improvement of the watershed.

Other Watersheds

Other comprehensive watershed management plans anticipated to be started in 2006 include the Accotink Creek, Pohick Creek, and Little Rocky Run/Johnny Moore Creek watersheds.