



## Fairfax County Buffer Restoration Initiative

Stormwater Planning Division, DPWES

Project Update

July 5, 2005

Fairfax County initiated a countywide riparian buffer restoration project in collaboration with volunteers and various partners to mitigate stormwater runoff into local streams and to support the Board of Supervisors' adopted Environmental Agenda.

The buffer restoration initiative began in spring 2005 with restoration of seven sites. The county, its partners, and many volunteers restored these areas by removing invasive plants and planting native trees and shrubs. This document provides a summary of activities at the seven restoration sites.

Figure 1 shows the location of sites targeted for invasive species removal and buffer restoration in the spring of 2005.

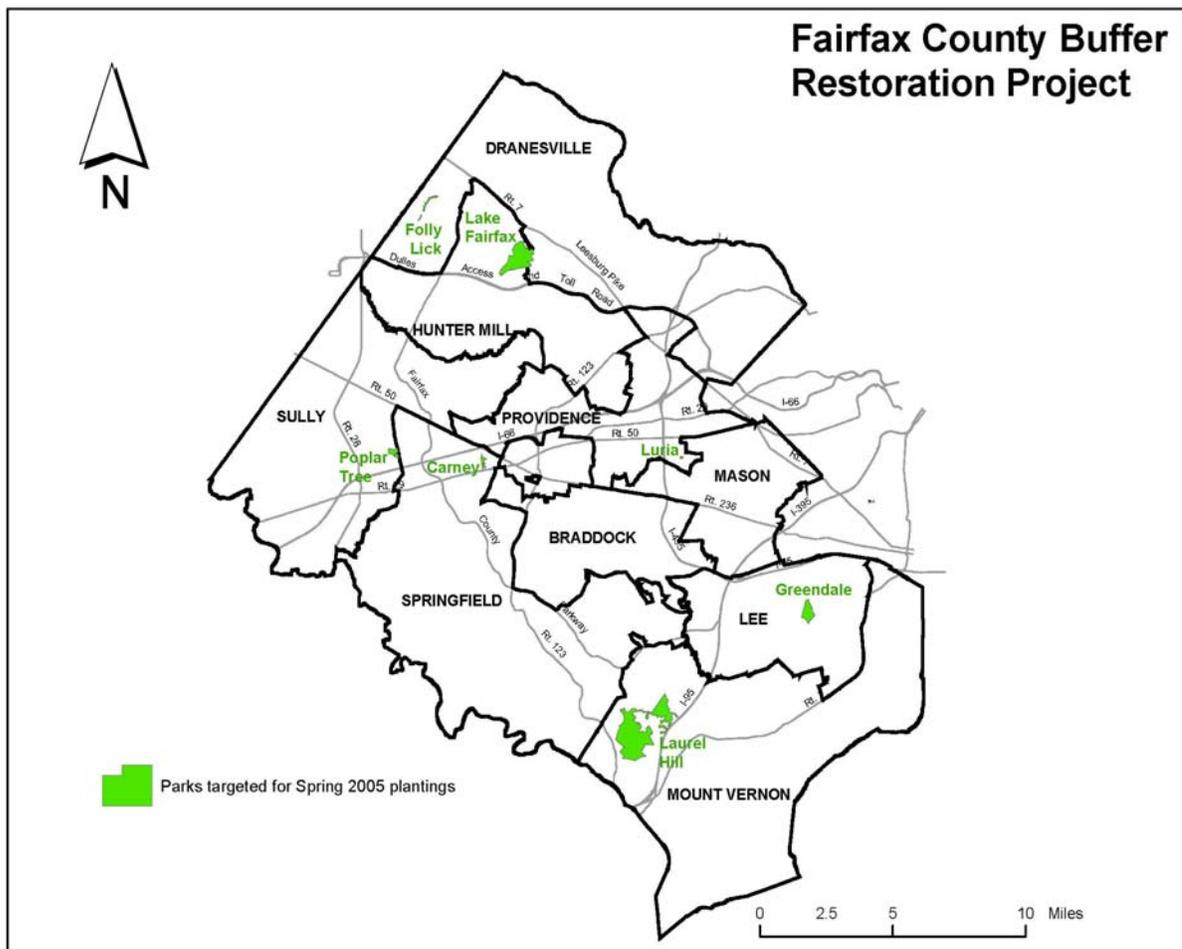


Figure 1. Spring 2005 buffer restoration sites.

A summary of work completed at these sites over a five-week period, starting in late March 2005 and ending in late April 2005, is provided below:

### **Luria (Providence District, Cameron Run watershed)**

This site is located at 7624 Holmes Run Drive, Falls Church, VA 22042. The Northern Virginia Conservation Trust (NVCT), an Earth Sangha partner, completed invasives control on approximately 5,000 square feet and coordinated plantings on approximately 19,500 square feet (including the invasives control area) with 350 seedlings. Approximately 400 feet of unstable streambank were also stabilized with more than 100 live stakes. Total volunteer hours logged: 180.



*Figure 2. Invasives control and plantings at Luria Park.*

### **Carney (Springfield District, Difficult Run watershed)**

This site is located on the 11500 block of Government Center Parkway near Wegmans. Earth Sangha completed invasives control on more than 6,000 square feet and completed plantings on approximately 9,000 square feet with 125 container plants. About 50 live stakes were also installed in the planted area. Total volunteer hours logged: 375.

### **Greendale Golf Course (Lee District, Dogue Creek watershed)**

This site is located at 6700 Telegraph Road, Alexandria, VA 22310. Fairfax Relief, an Earth Sangha partner, completed plantings on approximately 9,000 square feet with 120 container plants. Estimated total volunteer hours: 60.

### **Poplar Tree (Sully District, Cub Run watershed)**

This site is located at 4718 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly, VA 20152. The Virginia Department of Forestry completed plantings on approximately 6,000 square feet with 110 seedlings. Estimated total volunteer hours: 60.

### **Folly Lick (Dranesville District, Sugarland Run watershed)**

This site is located near the intersection of Hiddenbrook and Dranesville Road. It is best reached through a sidewalk next to 12626 Fantasia Drive (between Little Stone Lane and Bayou Drive). The Virginia Department of Forestry completed plantings on approximately 9,000 square feet with 170 seedlings. Estimated total volunteer hours: 90.



*Figure 3. Buffer restoration at Folly Lick Park.*

### **Laurel Hill (Mt. Vernon District, Mill Branch/Pohick Creek watersheds)**

This site is located east of Ox Road (Route 123). Lorton Road, Silverbrook Road, Hooes Road, and Pohick Road make up the network of roads accessing the site. The planting site is best reached through a restricted-access road off Silverbrook Road. Fairfax Releaf, an Earth Sangha partner, completed plantings on over 6,000 square feet with 90 seedlings. Approximately 50 live stakes were also installed. Estimated total volunteer hours: 60.

### **Lake Fairfax (Hunter Mill District, Difficult Run watershed)**

This site is located at 1400 Lake Fairfax Drive, Reston, VA 20190. Earth Sangha completed plantings on 45,000 square feet with 435 container plants and stabilized approximately 1,000 feet of eroding streambank with 50 live stakes. The planting event was held as an Earth Day celebration with a number of educational booths. There were more than 120 volunteers at the planting event. Total number of volunteer hours logged: 363.



*Figure 4. Buffer restoration at Lake Fairfax Park.*

### ***Overall summary of spring 2005 plantings***

The Fairfax County buffer restoration initiative spring 2005 plantings were a huge success. A summary of the spring 2005 plantings is listed below:

- Invasives control: 11,000 square feet
- Total seedlings planted: 1,520
- Live stakes installed: 275
- Area restored: more than 100,000 square feet (2.3 acres)
- Number of volunteers: 297
- Total volunteer hours: 1,093

Recent follow-up visits to the planting sites indicate greater than 95 percent survival of seedlings, with approximately 50 percent of the seedlings topping over their shelters.

### ***Current and future activities***

Ten locations on Fairfax County Park Authority owned land have been identified as possible planting sites for fall 2005 and spring 2006. Preliminary site visits have been conducted at two of these sites, and planting plans are being developed. As part of the implementation of the Little Hunting Creek watershed management plan, proposed buffer restoration projects at five sites are being evaluated. The overall goal is to complete buffer restoration projects at 40 sites countywide by summer 2006 with approximately half of the sites located on Fairfax County Park Authority land.