

Appendix A

Resource Protection Area Review and Additional Site Data

Overview

Introduction

Since the adoption of the November 2003 Chesapeake Bay Preservation Area Maps, Stormwater Planning Division staff have received numerous inquiries as to the perenniality of some streams located near areas of new development.

This document is a compilation of information for each of the contentious sites and provides explanations for the determinations.

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Contact

For any questions or concerns, please contact:

Watershed Planning and Assessment Branch

Stormwater Planning Division
Department of Public Works and Environmental Services

703-324-5500
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/stormwater/

Burke's Spring Branch / Stockwell Manor & Frase Property

Contacts

- Frank Crandall, Dranesville District citizen, Environmental Quality Advisory Council (EQAC) member
- Cathy Saunders, Dranesville District citizen, Founder of Friends of Burke's Spring Branch

Location Burke's spring is located south of Hutchinson Road near the major intersection of Great Falls Street and Idylwood Road.

Supervisor District: Dranesville
Watershed: Pimmit Run
Tax Map: 40-2
Rezoning Case: RZ/FDP 2003-DR-031

Concern Disagreement with the County's initial designation of Burke's Spring Branch. Data were submitted to Environmental Quality Advisory Council (EQAC) suggesting that Burke's Spring Branch was perennial. EQAC passed a resolution stating that the stream was perennial.

County's Initial Designation Non-perennial channel

Explanation Initially Burke's Spring Branch was examined from the road culvert at Hutchison Street downstream to the confluence of Burke's Spring Branch and the unnamed tributary that flows along the east side of the Haycock Longfellow Neighborhood Park. The stream channel was found to be dry throughout and was summarily characterized as being intermittent in nature.

These observations were taken during a non-drought period when conditions were extremely moist. Based on the field protocol and absence of flow during this period the assessed stream reach was classified as intermittent (not perennial). Based on these findings, the stream reach above Hutchison Street was not assessed at that time.

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Burke's Spring Branch / Stockwell Manor & Frase Property, Continued

Explanation
(continued)

As part of a rezoning case (RZ/FDP2003-DR-031) for the Frase Property/Stockwell Manor site, a second assessment of Burke's Spring Branch was conducted by staff on 10/17/03. The region was still experiencing extremely moist conditions at the time of this site visit.

The stream reach was classified as non-perennial based on a lack of geomorphologic (physical) stream features, absence of low chroma soils and a benthic macroinvertebrate community structure that was more characteristic of intermittent streams. Flow was present throughout the reach and the adjacent spring.

The macroinvertebrate community was characteristic of an intermittent stream with snails and *Amphipoda* (scuds). *Hydropsychidae* (net-spinning caddisflies), a more perennial species, were observed but were not dominant or present throughout much of the reach.

Based on these observations as well as downstream intermittent stream conditions, it was the professional judgment of staff that the stream reach is non-perennial.

Timeline

Date	Action	Initials
8/12/03	RPA report submitted to SWPD by Wetland Studies and Solutions, Inc. (WSSI)	WSSI
9/11/03	Initial Stream Survey of Burke's Spring Branch	GE, CG
10/17/03	Site visit of Burke's Spring	GE, CG
3/15/04	Memo to BOS from DPZ	JZ
3/18/04	Memo to Nancy Hopkins, Planning Commission from SWPD	CB
8/30/04	QC Survey of Burke's Spring Branch	LG, SC

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Burke's Spring Branch / Stockwell Manor & Frase Property, Continued

Final Outcome Based on numerous site visits and the dry stream conditions observed downstream of the spring, the stream remains classified as non-perennial. Flow subsides approximately 200 feet downstream of where the spring enters the stream. The spring itself was observed to be flowing during each site visit. The flow from the spring passes through a small wetland before entering the stream. Although the spring appears to be a continuous source of water to the stream, it is not enough to sustain surface flow throughout the channel even under wet hydrologic conditions.

It should be noted that as part of the rezoning process staff, EQAC and local residents worked with the land developer to preserve the spring and portions of the riparian buffer.

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Burke's Spring Branch / Stockwell Manor & Frase Property, Continued

Images

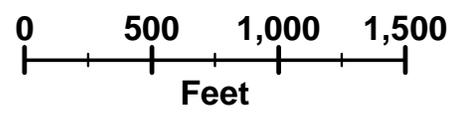
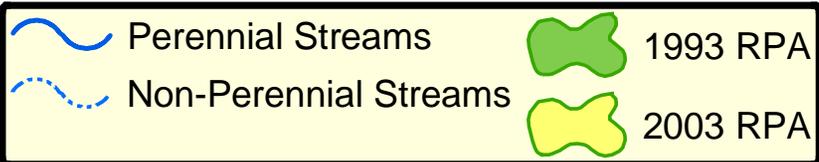
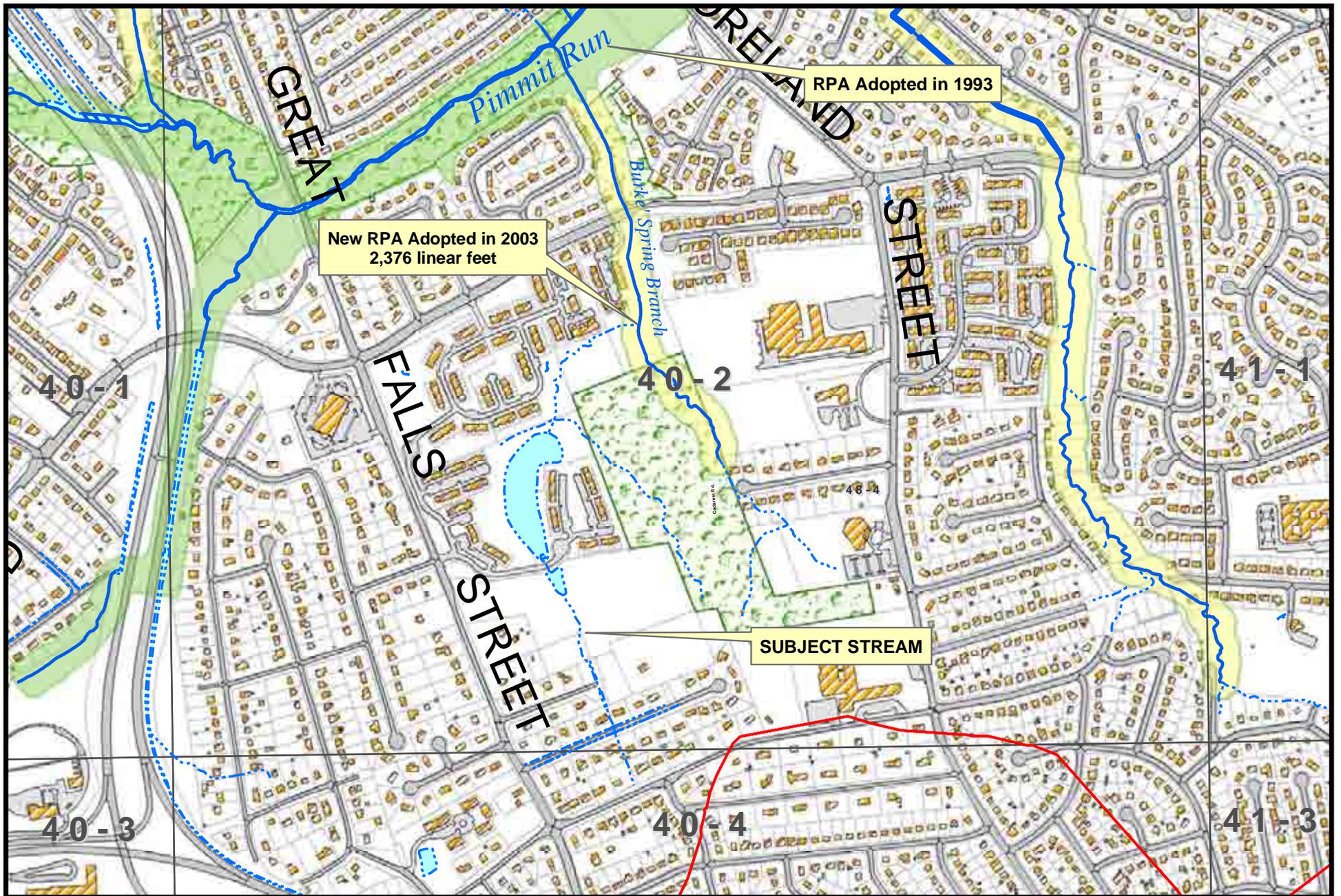
The photographs below were taken on October 17, 2003 and August 30, 2004, respectively.



Looking upstream at dry channel of Burkes Spring Branch behind townhouses on Brooks Square Place.



Looking upstream at Burkes Spring Branch approximately 100 feet above Hutchinson Street.



Burke's Spring Branch
 Stream: Tributary to Pimmit Run
 Watershed: Pimmit Run
 Dranesville District, Tax Map - 40-2