

# EMBARK RICHMOND HIGHWAY

## SELECTED ENVIRONMENT FEATURES



HUNTLEY MEADOWS PARK ~ DAVID COHEN

### FACTS AT A GLANCE

The Environment section of the Policy Plan and the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Ordinance guide environmental planning efforts in Fairfax County. The Chesapeake Bay Preservation Ordinance aims to protect streams and the Chesapeake Bay from pollution that may result from development. The Policy Plan includes goals and objectives that reflect the belief that environmental protection and preservation are important contributors to a high quality of life.

**The Richmond Highway Corridor falls into portions of the Cameron Run, Belle Haven, Dogue Creek, Little Hunting Creek, and Accotink Creek watersheds. Fairfax County has comprehensive watershed management plans that serve as tools to identify and address issues affecting the environment and to protect and restore streams and other resources.**

#### RESOURCE PROTECTION AREAS (RPAs)

A designation under the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Ordinance, constitutes corridors of environmentally sensitive land located alongside or near the shorelines of streams, rivers, and other waterways. RPAs supply important biological and ecological functions such as protecting water quality, filtering pollutants out of stormwater runoff, reducing the volume of stormwater runoff, and preventing erosion.

#### STEEP SLOPES

In terms of constraints to development, land that has a 15% or great slope is characterized as steep slopes, and generally corresponds with portions of the RPAs.

#### PROBLEM SOILS

Soils that are present within or near delineated RPAs and has poor drainage properties, including marine clay. Development on these soils are at risk for uneven settling or cracking. Proper engineering design and construction are necessary to help mitigate these risks.

#### FEMA 100-YEAR FLOODPLAIN

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) defines 100-year floodplains as the flat areas located adjacent to the main stream channel, which will be covered in a flood event with a one percent (1%) chance of occurring in any given year.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY CORRIDORS (EQCs)

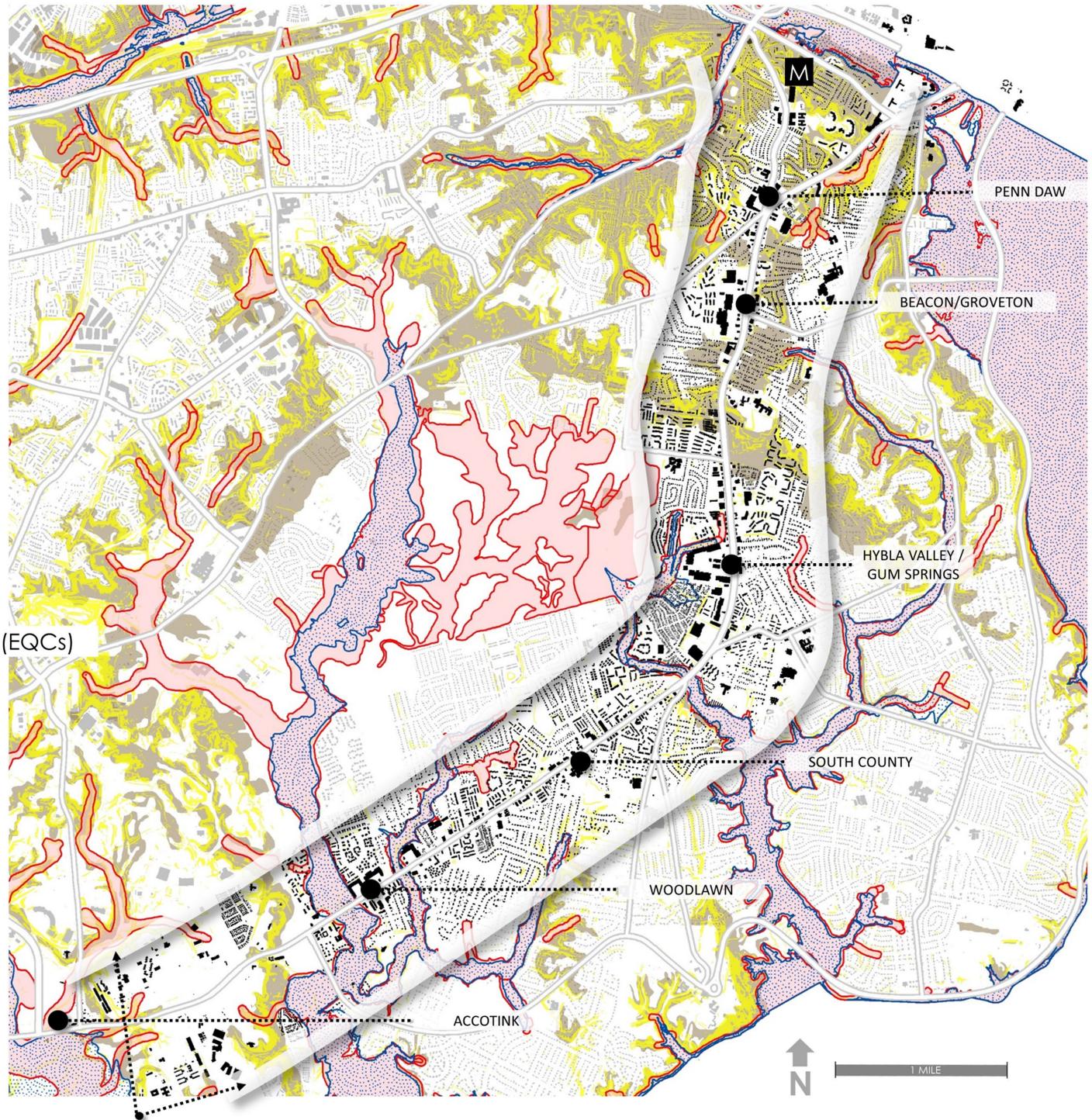
\*\*\* Not mapped\*\*\*

An open space system designed to link and preserve natural resource areas and provide passive recreation; including stream valley's wildlife habitats, and wetlands. The preservation of EQCs is a long-standing county policy and is currently achieved through the development review process, acquisition of parkland, and the donation of easements.

#### TREE COVER

\*\*\* Not mapped\*\*\*

Overall, existing tree cover along the Richmond Highway Corridor is minimal. The Policy Plan describes the importance of retaining environmental amenities on developed and developing sites, and the most visible of these amenities is tree cover. The Policy Plan encourages maximizing tree planting and tree cover restoration, and fulfilling tree cover requirements through tree preservation instead of replanting where existing tree cover permits.



Information Provided by Fairfax County Department of Public Works and Environmental Services

GENERALIZED STUDY AREA BOUNDARY



To request this information in an alternate format, call the Planning Division, 703-324-1380 TTY 711 (Virginia Relay)



**WATERSHED  
MANAGEMENT PLAN**  
Fairfax County



**ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY**  
Fairfax County  
Comprehensive Plan