

# Environment

## General Information

### Resource Protection Areas (RPAs)

- » The Fairfax Center Area contains several stream valleys.
- » Most streams are located in forested areas; however some portions are diverted underground through piping under I-66 and Lee Highway.
- » Existing policy recommends that redevelopment should be seen as an opportunity to restore and maintain sensitive environmental areas.

### Noise

- » Transportation generated noise from major thoroughfares may impact residential and other noise sensitive uses.
- » Current Comprehensive Plan policies recommend against new residential development in areas with projected noise levels exceeding Day-Night Loudness (DNL) 75 decibel (dBA).

### Water Quality

- » Portions of the Fairfax Center Area are covered with impervious surfaces, which adversely impact water quality.
- » The Plan recommends that high water quality be promoted using water quality management strategies (i.e. Best Management Practices (BMPs), Low-Impact Development techniques, and maintaining low-density development in environmentally constrained areas).
- » Portions of the Fairfax Center Area are located outside the Approved Sewer Service Area (ASSA), including areas south of Lee Highway and part of the Fairfax Farms subdivision. Long-standing county policies call for the preservation of areas outside of the ASSA as low density residential uses in order to safeguard water quality in these watersheds.

### Problem Soils

- » Portions of the Fairfax Center Area contain soils with naturally occurring asbestos and shrink-swell clays.



Stream restoration behind the Fairfax County Government Center.



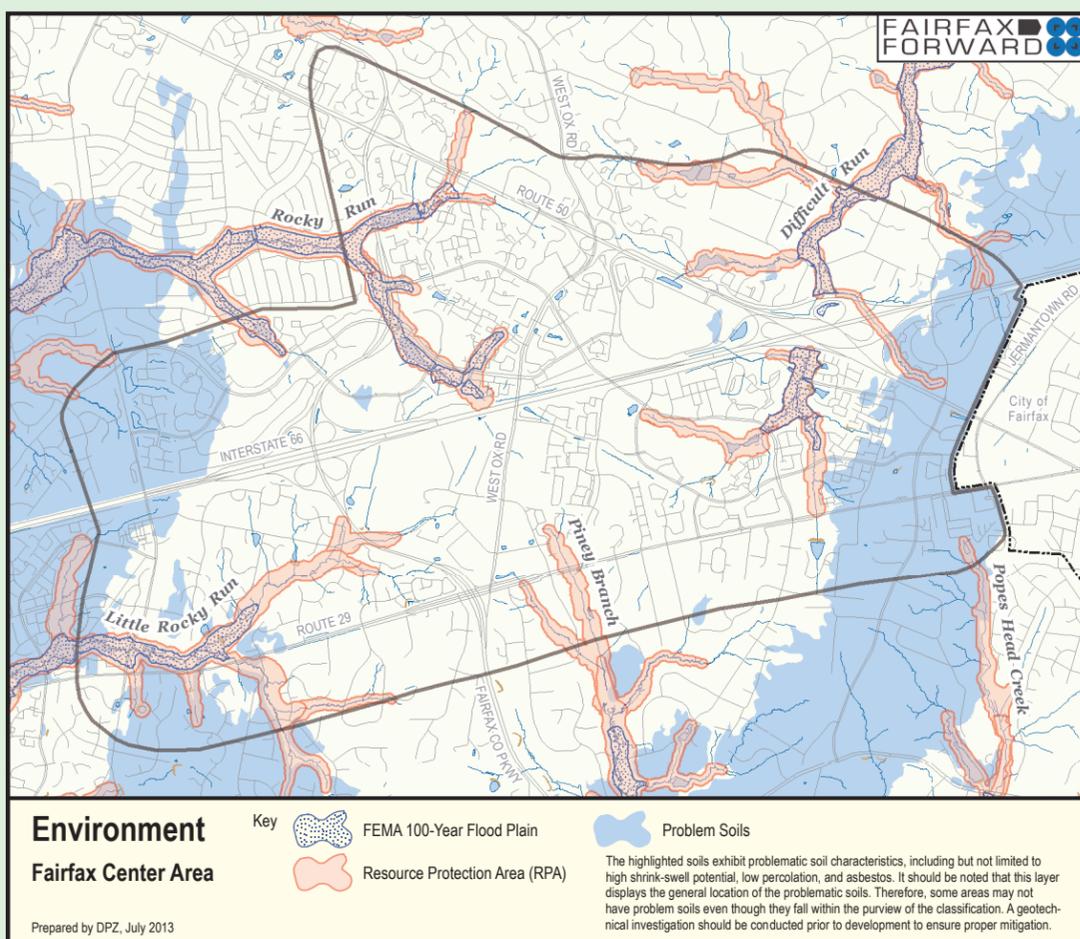
The green roof on the roof of the Herry/Penino building parking garage is an example of a Low-Impact Development technique.



Sound barrier along I-66 is reduces road noise for adjacent uses. Source: VDOT



Stormwater BMP in residential neighborhood.



## Did You Know...

Green roofs reduce stormwater runoff, absorb pollutants, and reduce energy costs by keeping buildings cooler in the summer and warmer in the winter?

The county owns and maintains more than 1,500 miles of stormwater pipe, 42,000 stormwater structures, and 1,300 stormwater management facilities?



DPWES website

