



Reston Association Committee Recommendations to Reston Master Plan Special Study Task Force February 2010

Study Area: Reston Master Plan Special Study General Principles

Committee: Environment Advisory Committee

Reston's natural areas are one of its defining features. As a community, we benefit from a greater number of natural areas than do many communities in Fairfax County. Surveys of residents have consistently shown that these areas are frequently enjoyed and highly valued by those who live here. Even though these natural areas were part of Reston's original master plan, their conservation and protection was not stated explicitly in the founding principles laid out by Robert Simon. EAC believes that such a statement should be added now, as part of the general principles of the plan review.

EAC believes further that, in line with the Board of Supervisors' 2004 statement of commitment, "Environmental Excellence for Fairfax County", the principle of environmental health should be applied to all of Reston, not just to the natural areas.

Therefore, in a unanimous vote at the Reston Association Environmental Advisory Committee meeting of February 4, 2010, the committee strongly recommends that the Reston Master Plan Special Study include in the general planning principles the following:

To protect the environmental health and ecological integrity of our community, future development in Reston shall conserve, protect and restore the community's natural resources, including its soils, water, native flora and fauna, in both qualitative and quantitative measures. In keeping with this principle, there shall be:

- *No net loss of natural areas*
- *No increase in stormwater runoff from infill development*
- *No landscaping use of invasive exotic plants (as identified by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation's Division of Natural Heritage)*
- *An overall increase in open space*
- *A minimum of LEED Silver Certification by the U.S. Green Building Council of new construction projects.*