

# Stream Restoration to Cross Toll Road

NEWS, PAGE 3



Frank Graziano of Wetland Studies and Solutions Inc. (WSSI), left, and Forest Edge Cluster resident Brian Ruhl look over plans for the restoration of the Glade Watershed at a meeting at Forest Edge Elementary School Saturday morning. As work in the Glade draws to a close, WSSI conducted the meeting at Forest Edge to brief residents of northern Reston on the stream restoration work coming to the Colvin Run Watershed.

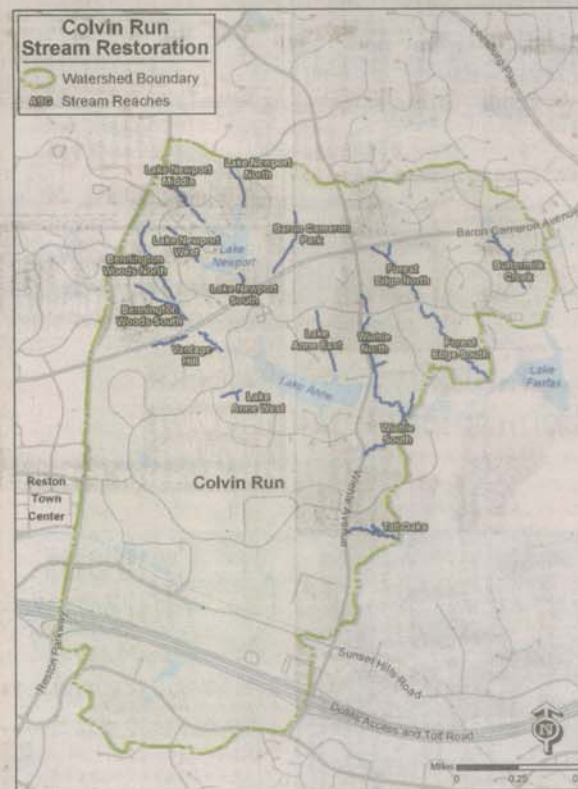
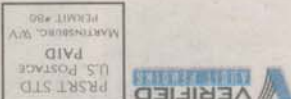
## Public Weighs In on Reston's Guiding Principles

NEWS, PAGE 3

## Granting The Hope

NEWS, PAGE 4

ATTENTION POSTMASTER: TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL. REQUESTED IN HOME 2-4-10



Design work is underway for the restoration of the Colvin Run Watershed in north Reston.

## Stream Restoration To Cross Toll Road

Residents in north Reston get preview of work to come, though construction is not yet funded.

BY MIKE DiCICCO  
THE CONNECTION

David Slater, president of the Forest Edge Cluster, said he had harbored several concerns about the forthcoming restoration of the Colvin Run Watershed. Having watched the work of Wetland Studies and Solutions Inc. (WSSI) in the Snakeden and Glade watersheds over the last two years, he said he thought the company "overdid it" in terms of taking down too many trees and creating pools that bred mosquitoes. Some of his cluster's property values resulted from the number of trees on its land, he said, and he was wary of the fact that workers would have to come onto cluster property to work on the streams.

"However, Wetland Studies has received enough feedback that they've gotten religion," Slater said. At a meeting that the wetland restoration company conducted Saturday morning, Jan. 30 at Forest Edge Elementary School to inform residents of northern Reston about the work to be done in their area, Slater said he thought enough people had been upset by the number of trees taken down in the lower Snakeden Watershed that WSSI had become more accommodating of residents' concerns.

Others among the 50 or so in the crowd were more readily enthusiastic. "I think it's great. I'm a full supporter of it," said Brian Ruhl, also of Forest Edge Cluster. "Erosion has just been

SEE COMMUNITIES, PAGE 5

## Communities Discuss Stream Restoration

FROM PAGE 3

quite severe in our neighborhood," he said. "We're kind of anxious for it to start."

**FOREST EDGE** is tentatively planned to be the starting point for restoration in the Colvin Run Watershed, as residents there had expressed the most interest in the project to the Reston Association, said WSSI President Mike Rolband, adding, "We've agreed to do anything [Parks and Recreation Director] Larry [Butler] tells us to do, in terms of order."

In late 2008, seven or eight months after work had begun in the Snakeden area, residents raised an outcry as numerous trees were taken down to accommodate reconstruction of streams in the badly eroded lower reaches of the watershed. Rolband responded by revising plans and involving the public in even minor decisions about the project's design, and many residents in turn expressed their support for the work.

"I'm sure it's going to be ugly when they're doing it," said Laura Twardy, also a resident of Forest Edge. "I'm sure they're going to knock down some trees I don't want to see go. But it's going to be a new normal and it's going to be OK." She said she was "happy someone is going to do something," noting that what was once a pleasant stream in her neighborhood now ran along the bottom of a canyon 8 feet deep and 10 feet wide.

Restoration of the Snakeden Watershed is now completed, and work is underway in the final three of six reaches in the Glade Watershed, which is to be completed by fall. Tree, wildlife, archaeological and other studies have been carried out in the Colvin Run area, and Rolband said he hoped to have preliminary designs for restoration north of the toll road completed by the end of the year.

At this point, that is all of the project that is funded. WSSI is a partner in the Northern Virginia Stream Restoration Bank, which receives funding from development projects that negatively impact wetlands in the area and then uses the money, under the oversight of the Army Corps of Engineers and the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, to repair and restore other wetlands in the local Potomac River Watershed. With construction slowing due to the economy, Rolband said, fewer developers are buying credits. He said financing could be an option but added, "Borrowing money for

this type of project in this type of economy is problematic."

**THE COLVIN RUN WATERSHED** is larger and will require considerably more work than its two counterparts south of the toll road. While Snakeden and the Glade each constitute about 20,000 feet of streams, about 35,000 feet are planned for restoration in Colvin Run. The Glade was broken into six reaches for restoration and Snakeden into 10, but Colvin Run will be divided into 14 reaches.

And the amount of repair and reinforcement a watershed needs is primarily dictated by the amount of impermeable surface surrounding it. This is why streams throughout the county are in such poor shape, Rolband said. While roads, buildings, parking lots and driveways create runoff where the ground once absorbed rain, until recently, storm water management policy "was to get the water as quickly as possible off the land and into the streams," he said.

Impervious surface coverage in the Colvin Run Watershed averages close to 40 percent, peaking

at 50 percent, Rolband said. This average is similar to the Snakeden Watershed and considerably higher than the Glade area, which averaged about 15 percent impervious coverage. He said the worst damage in Colvin Run was in the reach running along the east side of Wiehle Avenue.

No timetable has been set for construction in the northern watershed, as it remains unfunded, but Rolband said it would probably take about two years if everything were paid for.

WSSI has already held meetings with a few clusters in the Colvin Run Watershed and will meet with each community to discuss plans for the streams in its area. Designs are finalized one reach at a time, and in south Reston, Rolband has hosted walks along each reach before submitting plans for approval.

The three watersheds together, totaling 14 miles of streams and \$70 million worth of work, constitute the first phase of stream restoration in Reston. The second phase comprises another 15 miles of streams in the Sugarland Run area.

Pet your cat... Play with your dog...  
Enjoy your animals...

without any allergy symptoms!

When interacting with your pet, do you experience itchy eyes, itchy or runny nose, sneezing, cough, congestion, asthma, skin rashes or eczema?  
We can help!

Experience the most advanced, drug-free form of allergy relief available. **Advanced Allergy Therapeutics (AAT)** is an advanced and proven technology that relieves most forms of allergies and sensitivities with one treatment per allergen family. The treatment is painless and available to all ages, including infants!

Call us today at 703-390-9910.  
We have the solutions.

**Allergy Solutions OF RESTON**

11190 Sunrise Valley Drive, Suite 121 • Reston, VA 20191 • 703-390-9910  
www.allergysolutionsnow.com