



December 16, 2008

**FRIENDS OF
RESTON FOR
COMMUNITY
PROJECTS, INC.**

Dear Design Review Board Members:

We are writing to express our strong support for the continuation of the stream restoration work performed by the Northern Virginia Stream Restoration Bank/Wetland Studies and Solutions. Friends of Reston for Community Projects is organized to aid Reston Association in performing charitable, scientific and educational purposes. Our mission includes but is not limited to the:

- conservation of natural resources, improvements, buildings, facilities, and the environmental education programs of the Walker Nature Education Center
- maintenance and enhancement of the 1,300 acres of open space, including pathways, bridges, lakes, shorelines, watersheds, streams and stream restoration

As a supporting 501c3 organization, Friends of Reston strives to help Reston Association obtain funding for beneficial projects that fall outside of the RA budget. The severe degradation of Reston's streams has been well documented for over 10 years. The damage caused by stormwater from surrounding neighborhoods, roads, shopping plazas and other areas with impervious surfaces over the last several decades is indisputable. In the stream valleys, we have witnessed the deepening of our stream channels, the undercutting and toppling of mature trees as well as diminished water quality and biodiversity. Costly dredging of Reston's lakes is occurring on an increasingly frequent basis. Further, the integrity of our pathways, bridges, and sewer lines are being undermined.

Friends of Reston was pleased to play a role in bringing together the parties (Reston Association, Wetland Studies & Solutions, and The Peterson Companies) that were necessary to form the partnership which could address, fund and accomplish Reston-wide stream restoration. We have studied background material, attended presentations and walked stretches of pre and post restoration areas. Although the restoration requires initial disturbance, we believe it is consistent with the scope of problem. We are also confident that the long-term benefits of the restoration will outweigh the short-term disturbance. Healthy streams are the foundation of a healthy ecosystem, capable of supporting the flora and fauna which our community so deeply values.

Looking to the future, the terms of the stream restoration project include revegetation with native plants and ten years of oversight by Wetland Studies and Solutions to ensure the success of their engineering and planting. A catastrophic event fund (valued at approximately \$5 million) will be in place, and Reston Association and Friends of Reston are receiving linear foot fees (valued at \$450,000 and \$950,000 respectively).

We are grateful for the support that the DRB gave to the first phase of work in Snakeden Branch and urge you to continue your support in The Glade and future reaches of restoration.

Sincerely,

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