



Jan. 23, 2009

Support Stream Restoration

To the [editor](#):

On Tuesday, Jan. 27, the Design Review Board will decide on the restoration of The Glade from its headwaters to Steeple Chase Road. I strongly urge all Reston residents who support the restoration of the streams in Reston to attend this meeting to show your support.

Many people were not aware of the stream restoration effort until the Snakeden restoration reached Soapstone road. About 10 years ago the Watershed subcommittee of the Environmental and Ecology Advisory Committee started work on a watershed white paper. The goal of the paper was to get the board to approve the creation of a watershed master plan to deal with our watershed in a comprehensive manner. In December 2000 the RA board voted to support the goals and in July 2002 RA and a stakeholder group called Reston Watershed Action Group (ResWAG) presented the Watershed Master Plan to a public audience of about 100 people.

Getting funding for the \$3 million over 10 years to execute the plan turned out to be the tough part. We were requested by the board to use outside funding as much as possible. We tried grant money but there were two problems with that. The first was that they are usually matching grants so we still had to come up with half, and the other was that the grants were usually only a few thousand dollars. We tried to get funding for a grant writer to write all these grants but there was still not enough funding in the budget for that. The fact is that RA did not and does not have that kind of money. In meetings where I asked for that money it was pointed out that RA has a spending cap and that we also have a lot of aging facilities that also need repair.

In the end we could only get \$30,000 per year to fund the restoration. Today with the stream bank system we have funding to do a "no compromises" restoration of our streams at no cost to the residents. Not only that but we are also getting \$3 million worth of bridges to replace ones that were getting near the end of their service life and getting additional funding for the Nature House that 74 percent of the residents who voted in the referendum supported.

Over the last few weeks RA and Wetland Studies and Solutions, Inc., have presented the detailed plans for this restoration to the public as well as walking the project area. Of the 4,231 tagged trees in this area only about 5.6 percent will be removed as part of this work. The plans are well thought-out and I believe will be an asset to the community and the environment. You can see some parts of the plan as well as details on the trees by visiting reston.wetlandstudies.com.

There are those that suggest we stop the restoration and wait for Snakeden to complete

the 10-year monitoring and maintenance period. If Snakeden at that time is a healthy stream in a forest of trees 15 feet tall could we change our minds? Would any business want to take the risk of doing all the engineering and planning to get stopped again by a vocal group of residents?

Again I urge you to attend the DRB meeting on Jan. 27 at 7 p.m. at 1930 Isaac Newton Square and show your support for the project.

Ken Andrews

Reston