

# RRE



SPRING 2008

## RESTON RESOURCE

A quarterly publication for members of the Reston Association

[www.reston.org](http://www.reston.org)

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**Moving or changing addresses?** Please help avoid late fees on RA dues by notifying RA of the change. Call 703.435.6530.

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### FROM CAMPER TO COUNSELOR — THE FULL CIRCLE CAMP EXPERIENCE

RA's summer camps have been a Reston tradition for over 30 years and forge long lasting friendship and many fond, indelible memories. Many of our counselors started off as RA campers themselves, and have returned year after year, to camp counseling work during the summer. David Rabinowitz, a junior at South Lakes High School and Hug-a-Tree

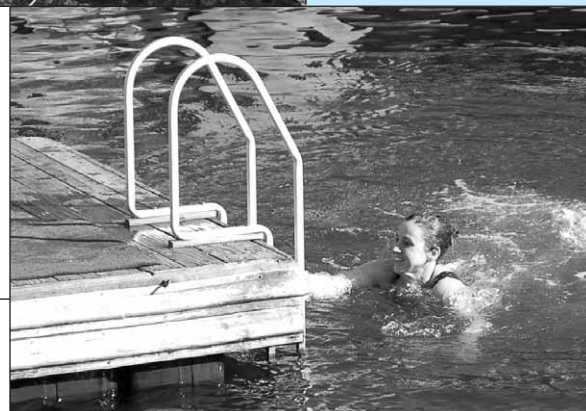
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## Stream Restoration

Landmark Project for Reston Breaks Ground, Establishes a Milestone for Northern Virginia

After tagging nearly 30,000 thousands trees, surveying and conducting aerial photography, it's now time to begin the hands-on repair work to fix Reston's degraded streams. On February 12, 2008, the first reach of fourteen miles of the construction work will commence. This effort is considered the most comprehensive stream restoration project ever

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*Jennifer Blackwell, RA's President, braved the chilly waters of Lake Anne and took the plunge during first Polar Plunge in Virginia to benefit Camp Sunshine on Saturday, February 9 from 2-4 pm. The Maine-based camp serves families with children who have life-threatening illnesses. Participants took a chilly dip into Lake Anne with either a full plunge or a "Chicken Dip" to raise funds for the charity.*



*Local leaders participated in breaking ground for the stream repair project on February 12. From left to right: Milton Matthews, RA CEO, Larry Butler, RA Parks & Recreation Director, Robin Smyers, RA Vice President, Casey Veatch, The Charles A. Veatch Co., Robert E. Simon, Jr., Hunter Mill District Supervisor Catherine Hudgins.*

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conducted in the Northern Virginia region.

Elected officials, RA staff, county and state representatives, business leaders and community members were on hand to break ground on this milestone project to repair Reston's watersheds on February 12. Reach 1 of Snakeden Branch Stream is located adjacent to the United Christian Parish church off of Colts Neck Road and covers four miles of streams. Other streams that will be restored in Phase 1 include Glade and Colvin Run totaling fourteen miles.

The fourteen miles of stream restoration in Phase I of the project will be designed, permitted and constructed and then credits for the completed restoration work will be sold to those impacting stream resources in Northern Virginia in accordance with the

Northern Virginia Stream Restoration Bank. The value of the work in Phase I is estimated to be in the range of 65 to 70 million dollars and will be provided at no cost to Reston residents. The resulting restored streams will benefit water quality in Reston's lakes as well as downstream to the Potomac River and Chesapeake Bay by restoring riparian buffers and greatly reducing erosion and sedimentation.

The stream restoration work, conducted by Wetland Studies and Solutions, Inc., operating as the manager of one of its subsidiaries called Northern Virginia Stream Restoration, L.C., (NVSR) is an entity that specializes in restoring and enhancing damaged streams and wetlands. The project will be coordinated with Reston Association staff and will be overseen by the US Army Corps of Engineers, and the Virginia Department of

Environmental Quality.

Not only will Reston be the recipient of the restoration work—free of charge—but RA, and the Friends of Reston, will receive fees from NVSR, based on the linear footage of streams they will restore for RA. These fees will cover RA staff costs associated with assisting on the project and allow the Friends of Reston to expand its nature education activities.

"It's very exciting to see the beginning of this massive restoration plan take off, with the work on Reach 1. We are extremely grateful to Chuck Veatch, who was instrumental in making this repair work a reality through his negotiations with the key players involved. This is a win-win for the community and for the long-term health of the watersheds," said Larry Butler, RA's Director of Parks and Recreation. ■



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Q&A about Reston's Watersheds  
and the Stream Restoration Project

**Q: How many lakes, ponds and streams does Reston have?**

**A:** Reston Association owns and maintains over 1,350 acres of open space which include four lakes (Anne, Audubon, Newport and Thoreau) encompassing 123.5 (surface acreage of lakes) acres, 19 miles of perennial streams, and three ponds and dams (6.1 acres for the ponds).

**Q: How many miles of streams will be repaired in this restoration project?**

**A:** Phase 1 of the project includes approximately 4 miles of streams in the Snakeden Branch Stream. Other streams in Phase I will include the Glade and Colvin Run totaling approximately 14 miles of streams.

**Q: How long will the project take from start to finish?**

**A:** The construction phase of the project is estimated to take about 5 years, followed by 10 years of monitoring and maintenance. Field work began in 2004 with aerial photography, surveying and tagging of over 29,000 trees in the stream valleys.

**Q: How will this project be funded?**

**A:** In February 2006, final approval was given to the Northern Virginia Stream Restoration Bank in Reston, a multi-million dollar stream restoration project that has been in development for the past three years. This will be Northern Virginia's first "Stream Mitigation Bank" and one of the first nationally in an urban area.

The fourteen miles of stream restoration in Phase I of the project will be designed, permitted and constructed and then credits for the completed restoration work will be sold to those impacting stream resources in northern Virginia. The value of the work in Phase I is estimated to be in the range of 65 to 70 million dollars and will be provided at no cost to Reston residents. The resulting restored streams will benefit water quality in Reston's lakes as well as downstream to the Potomac River and Chesapeake Bay by restoring riparian buffers and greatly reducing erosion and sedimentation

Not only will RA be the recipient of the restoration work—free of charge—but it, and the Friends of Reston, will also receive fees from NVSR (Northern Virginia Stream Restoration, L.C., a subsidiary of Wetland Studies and Solutions, Inc.), based on the

linear footage of streams they will restore for RA. These fees will cover RA staff costs associated with assisting on the project and allow the Friends of Reston to expand its nature education activities.

**Q: What sort of work will be done on this project?**

**A:** In addition to the preliminary work that included aerial photography, surveying and tagging of thousands of trees, the restoration and design work will include creating rock structures, reinforced stream beds, heavy plantings and re-vegetation of restored areas.

**Q: Will the existing forested areas be impacted?**

**A:** Yes, the existing forested areas in the stream corridors will be impacted.

Equipment will be moving materials, removing trees that were in jeopardy of falling and grading the banks. The equipment will stay within the limits of clearing that were approved by Fairfax County and the RA Design Review Board.

**Q: What will the replanting plan include?**

**A:** The plan includes heavy planting densities of native trees, shrubs, grasses and forbs that not only provide stability to the stream channel bed and banks, but also provide significant habitat benefits. A more detailed list can be found on our website, <http://www.reston.org/water>.

**Q: Who will be conducting the work?**

**A:** The stream restoration work will be conducted by Wetland Studies and Solutions, Inc. (WSSI), operating as the manager of NVSR. WSSI is a company that specializes in creating, restoring, and enhancing damaged streams and wetlands.

The project will be coordinated with Reston Association staff and will be overseen by the US Army Corps of Engineers, and the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality.

**Q: What kind of machinery will be used to do the work?**

**A:** Construction equipment will be used including tracked backhoes, loaders, dump trucks, skidders, and tracked carriers (pictures are available via the [reston.org](http://reston.org) web site).

**Q: What about the monitoring or maintaining of the work after it is done? Who is responsible for taking care of the restored streams?**

**A:** NVSR will conduct a 10-year monitoring program covering the streambeds, structures, vegetation and biological components of the project. Reston Association staff will work with NVSR throughout the monitoring program.

**Q: Has a stream restoration project of this magnitude been conducted in any other location in the area?**

**A:** A comprehensive restoration project of this scale, encompassing 14 miles of stream in an urban environment, has not been conducted in the Northern VA area.

**Q: How will nearby residents be made aware of the work that will be done near their property?**

**A:** Reston Association staff will be sending notification to neighboring properties prior to when the work is conducted with information on who to contact with any questions or information.

**Q: What caused the streams to become so damaged?**

**A:** As development of Reston has occurred, forestland and open space have been converted to buildings, roads, parking lots, driveways, sidewalks, and other impervious surfaces that prevent the infiltration of stormwater. Stormwater management practices common during the most active period of development (1960's and 1970's) involve transporting runoff from the developed land surface to receiving waterbodies as quickly as possible. While these practices can be highly effective in reducing the risk of local flooding, they significantly increase peak flow rates in receiving waterbodies. This combination of higher runoff volume resulting from developed impervious surfaces and higher peak flows resulting from outdated stormwater management techniques have increased the flow energy in Reston's streams. This increased flow energy in turn results in severe stream erosion and sediment deposition.

**Q: How long will the restoration work last?**

**A:** The streams are sectioned into shorter reaches. Restoration work is expected to take 6-10 weeks per stream reach. ■