



## County of Fairfax, Virginia

## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** FEB 17 2009

**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Anthony H. Griffin  
County Executive

**SUBJECT:** Stream Restoration Activities in Reston's Glade and Snakeden Branches,  
Board Matter 4c, January 12, 2009

As requested by the Board of Supervisors (Board) on January 12, 2009, staff has re-evaluated the construction plans for the Glade Stream Restoration Project with an emphasis on preserving, to the extent possible, the existing vegetation in and around the construction site. Since the completion of the Snakeden Branch restoration activities, there has been a heightened awareness among the local citizens with regard to the removal of existing mature trees within the stream valley corridor. While it's generally understood that the restoration project will necessarily cause some trees to be lost, the citizens have expressed concerns that more could be done to limit the magnitude of the disturbance within the stream valley.

To date, a total of 23 reaches of the stream restoration project have been permitted by the County. The Department of Public Works and Environmental Services (DPWES) has worked in partnership with the developer, Wetland Studies and Solutions Inc. (WSSI) and the Reston Association (RA) to assure that every effort is being made to conserve as many trees as possible. As a part of the technical review of the stream restoration plans, staff from the Department of Land Development Services is looking closely at the areas that are to be cleared with a focus on limiting the loss of existing vegetation wherever possible.

As part of the design of the plans, the developer is taking advantage of areas within the stream valley that have already been cleared of trees, like existing trails and public utility easements, in order for the construction activities to have as little impact as possible. Where it has been necessary to remove existing vegetation, every effort is being made to preserve as many trees as is practical through a transplanting program. Smaller caliper trees up to 3" in diameter are being removed with a tree spade and relocated to areas of the stream valley that are outside of the limits of construction. To date, over 200 trees have been relocated through this program.

With much of the work on Snakeden Branch having recently been completed, attention has now shifted to The Glade where the first three reaches to be restored have been approved both by the County as well as the Reston Design Review Board. With far greater public interest having been focused on the work to be done on The Glade, the final design of these three

**Board of Supervisors****Stream Restoration Activities in Reston's Glade and Snakeden Branches,  
Board Matter 4c, January 12, 2009****Page 2 of 2**

reaches has, in part, been a product of much public outreach within the community. Through a series of public plan review sessions and several "Stream Walks" where the local citizens have been invited to walk these first reaches with representatives from WSSI and RA, the citizens concerns and input have factored into the final design of the project. The developer is now preparing to move forward with work on The Glade and, working with the County's Urban Forestry and Site Review staff, have completed a visual inspection of the specific areas impacted by the work and identified those areas through the installation of protective construction fencing. As a result of these field inspections, staff is now comfortable that the developer's design has made the best use of existing cleared areas within The Glade and preserved, where practical, as much of the existing vegetation as possible.

Staff in DPWES will be working closely with the developer and the Reston Association to assure that the plans that are ultimately permitted for construction represent the best design possible with regard to tree preservation.

cc: Robert A. Stalzer, Deputy County Executive  
Jimmie D. Jenkins, Director, Department of Public Works and Environmental Services (DPWES)  
Howard S. Guba, Deputy Director, DPWES  
James W. Patteson, Director, Land Development Services, DPWES