



February 8, 2006

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James K. Hartmann
City Manager
City of Alexandria
301 King St.
Suite 3500
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Ron Carlee
County Manager
Arlington County
2100 Clarendon Blvd.
Suite 302
Arlington Virginia 22201

RE.: Four Mile Run Restoration Project Update, January 2005

Dear Messrs. Hartman and Carlee:

The Four Mile Run Stream Restoration Joint Task Force (JTF), a County/City Manager appointed citizen panel, enthusiastically and unanimously endorses the draft Four Mile Run Stream Restoration Master Plan. The draft master plan is a model for how two jurisdictions can work together to develop a vision for what the lower Four Mile Run corridor can be: a stream to knit the two communities together in ways that have never been considered, a stream that the two communities can face proudly rather than turning their backs to it and each other.

At its most recent meeting on January 25, 2006, the JTF voiced its strong desire to see the plan adopted by the Alexandria City Council and the Arlington County Board.

The Joint Task Force is particularly pleased with the balance the plan espouses between restoring naturalness to the flood control project that now shapes that part of Four Mile Run while providing urban amenities that residents can enjoy. At the same time, the JTF is ever mindful of the need to maintain adequate flood control. The planning and design represented in this plan have kept the protection of life and property as the foundation of all that is envisioned, but has done it with the creativity and attention this stream and our communities deserve. Flood control, ecological function and good urban design functioning together merge in the remarkable outcome of this wonderful community visioning process.

The Joint Task Force was a critical, vital and active force in shaping the plan. We have met 17 times to date as a separate group and have sponsored five public open houses to facilitate input from interested local residents. It should be noted that this stream reach functions as a federal flood control project and as such, the master plan needed to comply with federal law relative to public involvement. The Joint Task Force's public outreach and open houses fully accomplished that requirement.



Joint Task Force members bring a wide array of skills and interests to this stream restoration project, representing commissions, specific interests and civic associations in their home jurisdictions. In private life, they represent varied professions from architects to lawyers, to teachers but are united in their wish to see lower Four Mile Run reach its potential. Their input has been felt throughout the process in helping shape the form of public input, participating in the development of goals and objectives for the project, and particularly in crystallizing the discussion on defining the first step toward implementation of this long-term and broad ranging project – the demonstration project.

The demonstration project as recommended by the JTF and identified in the master plan, targets the area between the Route 1 bridge over Four Mile Run to Commonwealth Avenue/Eads Street. In this tidal portion of the stream, gabions would be removed from both sides of the stream, a tidal wetland bar would be created and stream banks restored on both sides of the stream. Other features would include a pedestrian/bicyclist bridge to link Eads Street to Commonwealth Avenue, litter control and an information kiosk.

The JTF believes that moving forward with this demonstration project will enable the enthusiasm for the plan among residents to be sustained. In this regard, it is critical to the long-term implementation of the master plan to have adequate financial resources available to move forward with the demonstration project and the work that will follow over many years. At this time, an Environmental Protection Agency matching grant is available for the project. Our local jurisdictions need to step up and match that grant.

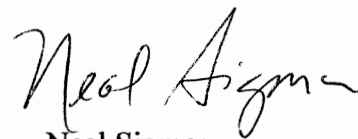
It is with great pride that we as co-chairs of the Joint Task Force present its recommendation for adoption of the Four Mile Run Restoration Master Plan. It is a big commitment but that commitment represents a really bright future for this stream and the neighborhoods that surround it.

If you have any questions regarding the project or would like arrange a time to meet to discuss the project further you may contact either of us by phone (Judy: 703.836.4230 or Neal: 703.684.8622) or by e-mail (jnoritake@nka-arch.com or nealsigmon@aol.com).

Sincerely,



Judy Guse-Noritake
Joint Task Force Co-Chair
City of Alexandria



Neal Sigmon
Joint Task Force Co-Chair
Arlington County

cc: County Board Members
City Council Members
Four Mile Run Joint Task Force Members (by e-mail)
Four Mile Run Agency Coordination Members (by e-mail)