



## **FOUR MILE RUN RESTORATION MASTER PLAN Vision and Guiding Principles**

### **MASTER PLAN VISION FOR FOUR MILE RUN**

Four Mile Run will become a model of urban ecological restoration. Through the sensitive and sustainable integration of a restored natural stream channel with an active urban environment the Four Mile Run corridor will be a place where the communities of Arlington County and the City of Alexandria can gather, recreate and celebrate a shared waterfront legacy.

### **GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

#### **Flood Protection**

- Provide a minimum 100-year event flood protection.
- Examine the current extents of the 100-year flood prone area.
- Consider flood protection for areas not currently protected.

#### **Environment**

- Create a “dynamically stable stream channel” using natural stream channel design techniques.
- Improve corridor habitat and ecology to support native terrestrial and aquatic plant and animal species.
- Develop upstream strategies to improve water quality in the run and the environmental quality and long-term viability of a restored levee corridor.

#### **Aesthetics & Design**

- Improve overall corridor aesthetics and viewshed opportunities.
- Encourage urban design that develops the corridor's aesthetics and reflect the excitement of the watershed citizenry for this resource.
- Incorporate "green design" principles for all design and development activities within and adjacent to the corridor.
- Incorporate innovative & creative urban design and watershed solutions.

### **Recreation & Urban Life**

- Enhance existing recreational opportunities.
- Create new recreational opportunities that afford interaction with the waters of Four Mile Run.
- Develop urban life opportunities along the Four Mile Run corridor.
- Encourage appropriate siting of recreational facilities in the context of the overall project goals.

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### **Integration & Balance**

- Connect the project to the efforts underway in the watershed to improve the water quality of Four Mile Run.
- Integrate the corridor with surrounding communities and proposed adjacent urban development efforts.
- Create a balance between the natural elements of a restored corridor and urban activity areas in order to generate a lively, safe and well-used public resource.
- Coordinate with other ongoing planning activities. Such activities include the Four Mile Run TMDL/Implementation Plan, the local Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act programs, the Potomac Tributary Strategies, affordable housing initiatives, master planning efforts like the Arlandria and Shirlington planning efforts, and other planning and economic development initiatives.

### **Access & Connectivity**

- Create a place for people to reconnect with water and nature within an urban context.
- Increase pedestrian and bicycle access and amenities.
- Ensure that Four Mile Run is accessible to all who wish to use it.
- Increase connectivity between the two communities.
- Enhance the corridor's effectiveness as a non-motorized and mass transit corridor.

### **Education & Interaction**

- Provide interpretive opportunities to educate/inform the public about the stream corridor.
- Stress the interrelatedness of positive individual, institutional, and political actions and behavior changes with improved water quality and habitat in the corridor.

### **Planning Horizon**

- Think big ---- create a plan that provides the parameters for change over time as opportunities become available.
- Provide a mix of short-term discrete improvement tasks blended with long-term large-scale corridor changes.