

2010

Fairfax County Restoration Project

A Public-Private Partnership



Summary of Activities

January 1, 2010 – December 31, 2010

The Beginning

Convened by the Office of Public/Private Partnerships, The Fairfax County Restoration Project began with preliminary discussions in April 2008 followed by a meeting with Dominion Virginia Power in the spring of 2009. A summer of homeowner outreach followed, with notices sent through the NVSWCD to homeowners along the corridor and two meetings with VDOT and the landscapers hired to refoliate the HOTLANES. Chartering meetings were held over the summer and fall months with a final charter being issued by year-end 2009. Also in the Fall of 2009 the first of a conference series called Restoring Lands/Restoring Water was held. This conference featured guest speakers that included Professor Susan Piedmont-Paladino, a Curator at the National Building Museum; Richard Street, Code Enforcement Officer for the Chesapeake Bay in Spotsylvania County; Jim McGlone, Urban Forest Conservationist with the Virginia Department of Forestry; Danielle Wynne with Stormwater Planning in Fairfax County; and Alan Ford, President, Potowmack Chapter of The Virginia Native Plant Society. A grant from Transurban was applied for and received by a business partner, Eze Solutions, who agreed to develop an on-line calendar and website for the FCRP. 2010 began with a new Leadership Team and goals set forth for a March public launch, as well as 6 month and 1st year goals.

Our Mission

The Mission as set forth in the Charter is as follows: The Fairfax County Restoration Project (FCRP) will strengthen the relationship between people and nature through community action. FCRP will **connect, create, and promote efforts** to restore ecosystem functions in Fairfax County through collaboration with public, private, and volunteer organizations.

Our Actions

Our Public Launch Week included the following four initiatives:

1. March 27th Restoring Lands/Restoring Water Conference. The second presentation of this conference series was held at the Braddock District Office for approximately 40 homeowners from throughout the County. A surprise introduction of the event by Supervisor Cook helped set the tone for a vibrant exchange between the participants and presenters: Danielle Wynne of Stormwater Management; Jim McGlone, Urban Forest Conservationist with the Virginia Department of Forestry; and Dan Schwartz of the Northern Virginia Soil & Water Conservation District.

2. April 2nd – Schoolyard Greening Project. This project is a conversion of turf to forest at the Falls Church Pumping Station and will be used in continuing education efforts of both Falls Church City Schools and Fairfax County Public Schools, particularly Chesterbrook Elementary located across the street. Officials from Falls Church City, Fairfax County and both school systems highlighted the day with a ceremonial tree planting along with lessons on the proper method of tree planting.

3. GMU Garden Ribbon Cutting – Transurban funded an organic garden on the campus of George Mason University. Administered by the GMU Office of Sustainability, the garden has yielded hundreds of pounds of vegetable that have been used by Food for Others in Fairfax. The season ended with a harvest festival in the Fall. Future plans for the garden include: a winter garden, teaming with other garden groups at GMU. Highlights include:

- Permaculture Workshop: 15 attendees for workshop on closed-loop, sustainable gardening, several perennial plants were planted at garden during workshop

- Harvest Party: End of growing season party (over 80 attendees) to celebrate a very successful season at the Potomac Heights Vegetable Garden
- George Mason University Organic Garden Association (student club) has been expanding and taking more responsibility with the garden
- 6 Service Learners currently working with the garden (each to complete 25 hours of service-learning with the garden)
- Grant money spent on garden tools, cover crop seeds (for the fall/winter season), raised beds, and a water management system
- Increased recruitment over fall/winter season, aim for more Mason community involvement
- Current service learners in process of creating garden plan for next year (incorporating Permaculture principles and crop-rotation)
- 3-part composting system in place, ready for use in the upcoming growing season

4. Tree Coupon Pilot Program – This program allows homeowners to download a coupon and bring it to [Cravens Nursery & Pottery](http://CravensNursery.com) to purchase native trees. Native tree fact sheets can be found on our website at www.fcrpp3.org. Over the spring 9 homeowners had taken advantage of this program.

During our 1st year the following items were initiated:

Reforest Fairfax: Developed a tree gifting program called Reforest Fairfax which is set to launch in Spring 2011. Reforest Fairfax is a program designed to help replenish the tree canopy by banking trees. The program works with partnerships developed with International Paper, McCabe's Printing, and Fairfax Relief. A grant was requested and received from Transurban to fund this program's web presence and merchandising potential. Watch for it spring of 2011... ***Reforest Fairfax, the future takes root one tree at a time.***

Unitarian Church, Oakton, VA: FCRP partners Asad Rouhi and Dan Schwartz of the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District and Ron Tuttle of Fairfax County Public Works worked extensively with members of the UUCF community to plan and design a retrofitted parking lot on church property that would eliminate most, if not all, stormwater runoff. The existing parking lot is over an acre in size, "paved" with gravel, and steeply sloping. The planned retrofits include terracing the existing surface to eliminate slope, paving with permeable asphalt, and installing vegetated infiltration swales and rain gardens between parking lanes. The Conservation District and Public Works provided assistance in the form of survey work, cost estimates, preliminary design work (for rain garden and swale sizing), runoff and nutrient reduction calculations, guidance in regards to county building permits, and contractor recommendations. The recommendations and calculations provided to the church were incorporated into a grant application to the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality's Water Quality Improvement Fund. The church is seeking \$250,000 to match its own allocations for the project. If the grant application is not successful, the church plans to implement what it can of the retrofit plan using only its own funds.

Raintree HOA: Assisted in securing a Transurban grant for this HOA that has been negatively impacted by the deforestation along the HOTLANES. FCRP has also assisted in the application for a Fairfax County Neighborhood Enhancement Program. Support thus far has included outreach to Delegate Watts office to help intervene in damage created by the northbound entrance to 495 resulting in traffic overflow into

their complex with consequential damage to sidewalks, parking lot, signage within the complex and traffic damage to soil & turf. Additionally, construction vehicles are using easement areas under the Dominion Power lines as parking and working areas. These are not VDOT rights of way and are areas being managed by the Raintree HOA. Delegate Watts has secured barriers to force vehicles to slow down to make the turn into the complex. She is working with the Police Department to determine why trespassing laws are inadequate. Other support has included visits and walk-throughs by VA Department of Forestry and NVSWCD, outreach to confirm gas line locations, attendance at an HOA meetings to help formulate a plan for reforesting, addressing the stormwater issues resulting from the deforestation, and guidance and technical assistance through the grant process.

Outreach to HOA's: Development of a brochure is underway that will be sent from District Supervisors offices to the HOAs along the HOTLANES project describing the type of assistance FCRP can offer and encouraging them to contact us. Partners assisting in this include Banzon Designs, NVSWCD, VA Department of Forestry, and Audubon Society of Northern Virginia.

The Cloisters Storm Water Management Revegetation and Habitat Restoration: Stormwater management ponds are underutilized meadow habitats. This project would demonstrate how dry ponds can be used to increase meadow habitat and reduce costs for the HOAs. Mowing cycle for a meadow habitat is reduced to once a year. After site visits were conducted, and following meetings with FCRP leadership, it was determined this pond was part of the county's inventory and was scheduled for maintenance within the next fiscal year. Therefore, it was determined that the best course of action for the present was to reseed with an appropriate and inexpensive grass seed mix and continue mowing until the pond is renovated by DPWES.

Other projects presented but deferred:

On-Line Photo Contest: This has been postponed until appropriate legal guidance can be sought.

Business License Renewals Insert: This project has not yet been developed.

Target and Visit Non-Profit environmental groups for potential membership & partnerships. Sierra Clubs' Roger Diedrich suggested we do this. Thus far, no progress on this.

GMU Tree Planting Project: It was determined there was not space for additional projects as available land at GMU is slated for building projects.

Upcoming Projects:

Stormwater Ponds along HOTLANES. Virginia Megaproject partners, Fluor-Transurban and VDOT, have been working with Supervisor Foust and county staff to develop more environmentally comprehensive strategies for some of the stormwater ponds that will be constructed as part of the HOT Lanes project. Discussions have focused on the grading design within the ponds and a mixture of compost and seed that will create habitat for native species.

Vernal Pool Seminar. Plan & organize a series of events to educate the public about the importance of vernal pools. This will include environmental education programs at local schools, a hands-on workshop creating a vernal pool, and field trips and site surveys. FCRP will anchor a restoration-focused seminar workshop along the lines of "Working with Vernal Pools", intended to foster discussion about policies and practices that are supportive of vernal pools.

Earth Day Private Screening of Dirt! The Movie. This item was originally planned for the Fall, 2010. However, in the current financial climate and the FCRP's profile still not penetrating the business sector, it was decided to move it to spring 2011. FCRP is working with Clean Fairfax Council, organizers of the county-wide celebration of Earth Day, to determine an appropriate venue and enlisting sponsors for the Movie.

Centerville HS modifications. Jeanette O'Connor with Living Classrooms of the National Capital Region and Fairfax County Public Schools are currently working with Jeanette Stewart, Charles Smith, Ron Tuttle and others to make environmental improvements to runoff conditions on the school's campus. The modifications, although not fully finalized at this point, will include the use of a compost blanket with native wildflower and grass seed mix to improve stormwater runoff conveyance while creating wildlife habitat. Further upland reforestation is also being considered, as shown on attached below. (Double Click picture for notes on electronic version).



Membership Report

Since the FCRP Charter was completed we have 22 Individual Members and 10 Organizational Memberships

The area that continues to be challenging is business membership and more focus needs to be given to this issue.

Organization members:



[The Fairfax County Office of Public Private Partnerships](#)



[Transurban](#)



[Eze Solutions Inc.](#)



[Lands and Waters Inc.](#)



[Clean Fairfax Council](#)



[Virginia Native Plant Society](#)



[Friends of Accotink Creek](#)



[Audubon Society of Northern Virginia](#)



[George Mason University, Office of Sustainability](#)



[Fairfax County Department of Planning and Zoning](#)



www.dbanzondesign.com www.stopthinkgreen.com

Individual members:

Dorothy Banzon
Brittany Bennett
Diane Blust
Stacey Evers
Alan M. Ford
Amy Gould
Sandhe Hrushikesh
Kashka Kubzdela
Terry Liercke
Jim McGlone
Pat McMullan
Jamie Minnaert-Grote
Mark Priest
Marie Reinsdorf
Juan Revollo
Daniel Schwartz
Kim Scudera
Jayashree Srinivasan
Eva Stern
Elizabeth Walsh

APPENDIX A – PROJECT LIST & RETURN ON INVESTMENT TABLE
Data updated regularly. Please check for latest version
On-Line at www.fcrpp3.org