



THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK & PLANNING COMMISSION

MCPB
Item # 6
July 31, 2003

MEMORANDUM

TO: Montgomery County Planning Board

FROM: Mark Pfefferle, Planning Coordinator
County-wide Planning Division *MP*

VIA: Jeff Zyontz, Chief, County-wide Planning Division
Jorge A. Valladares, P.E., Chief, Environmental Planning
County-wide Planning Division *JAV*

DATE: July 24, 2003

SUBJECT: Special Protection Area (SPA) Combined Preliminary and Final Water Quality Plan for the Clarksburg Greenway Trail

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends approval of the final water quality plan for Greenway Trail in Clarksburg with the following condition:

- Conformance to the conditions as stated in the DPS letter dated July 21, 2003 approving the elements of the SPA water quality plan under its purview (Attachment A).

DISCUSSION

The project will consist of an eight-foot wide asphalt and timber boardwalk hiker/biker trail. The trail will run from Stringtown Road to future Newcut Road extended. The linear site is located within the stream valley buffer of the Town Center tributary to Little Seneca Creek. Little Seneca Creek is a Use IV-P waterway. The entire site is within the Clarksburg Special Protection Area. The majority of the site is located on the Clarksburg Village property, however small portions are not controlled by Clarksburg Village or M-NCPPC. This approval is for the entire section of the Greenway Trail from Stringtown Road to Newcut Road extended, including portions not controlled by Clarksburg Village and M-NCPPC.

Water quality plans are required as part of the Special Protection Area regulations. Under the SPA law, Montgomery County Department of Permitting Services (MCDPS) and the Planning Board have different responsibilities in the review of the water quality plan. MCDPS has reviewed and conditionally approved the elements of the final water quality plan under their purview. The Planning Board responsibility is to determine if the site imperviousness, environmental guidelines for special protection areas, and forest conservation requirements have been satisfied.

SITE PERFORMANCE GOALS

As part of the final water quality plan, several site performance goals were established for the project:

- Minimize impacts to aquatic life and habitat.
- Identify and protect stream banks prone to erosion and slumping.
- Minimize storm flow runoff increases.
- Minimize sediment loading.

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

To help meet these performance goals, the stormwater management plan requires water quality control and quantity control to be provided through an extensive system of linked best management practices (BMPs). Water quantity and quality control will be provided via six vernal pools and stone infiltration/recharge trenches along the trail.

SITE IMPERVIOUSNESS

There are no impervious limitations within the Clarksburg SPA. However, in developing the linear Greenway Trail the amount of imperviousness was reduced by utilizing an 8-foot wide hard surface hiker/biker trail instead of the standard 10-foot wide hard surface trail.

ENVIRONMENTAL GUIDELINES

The environmental guidelines for SPAs require examination of many tools to maximize achievement of site performance goals. For instance, the goal of protecting seeps, springs, and wetlands is better achieved with naturalized buffers surrounding these areas. The Greenway Trail is located within the stream valley buffer. The trail follows the upper edge of a WSSC easement that runs through forest cleared to provide water and sewer to Clarksburg Town Center. The WSSC easement is currently unforested, though some volunteer species are being regenerating. The natural resource inventories for the WSSC water and sewer line and for Clarksburg Village identified the environmental buffers. Environmental buffers include wetlands and wetland buffers, floodplains, and streams and stream valley buffers.

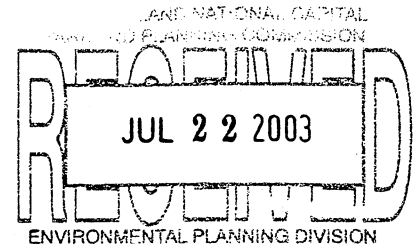
Permanent environmental impacts include encroachments into wetlands and wetland buffers. Those portions of the trail that cross these environmental sensitive features are elevated onto boardwalk. In total, 2315 linear feet or 20 percent of the entire length of the trail is on boardwalk. The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) has jurisdiction over wetlands for the Greenway Trail. MDE has participated in field locating the trail to avoid and minimize impacts to wetlands.

Whenever the trail crosses a tributary stream, bridges will be utilized. In addition, a separate underpass is proposed for Foreman Boulevard to provide safe passage of trail users away from the stream. The stream will be in a separate bottomless arch culvert. By separating the trail and stream into separate culverts, the stream is provided more space to allow natural meandering to occur.

FOREST CONSERVATION

As part of the construction for the water and sewer line to Clarksburg Town Center, WSSC submitted a forest conservation plan to the Maryland Department of Natural Resources for their review and approval. Construction of the WSSC water and sewer line is complete, but WSSC has not reforested the easement area. Constructing the Greenway Trail within the limits of disturbance established by WSSC will not require addition forest planting for M-NCPPC.

Attachment A



DEPARTMENT OF PERMITTING SERVICES

Douglas M. Duncan
County Executive

July 21, 2003

Robert C. Hubbard
Director

Mr. J. L. Jalali
Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission
1109 Spring Street, Suite 800
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

Re: **Preliminary/Final Water Quality Plan for**
Clarksburg Greenway Trail
SM File #: 206235
Tract Size/Zone: 3.5 acres disturbed/Park Land
Tax Plate: EW
Parcels: 701 and 800
Montg. Co. Grid: 9E4, F5 and F6
Watershed: Little Seneca Creek

SPECIAL PROTECTION AREA

Dear Mr. Jalali:

Based on a review by the Department of Permitting Services, the Preliminary/Final Water Quality Plan for the above mentioned site is conditionally approved.

Site Description: The project will consist of an eight foot wide asphalt (9550 linear feet) and timber boardwalk (2315 linear feet) hiker/biker trail that will run from Stringtown Road to future Newcut Road Extended. This site is located in the Clarksburg Special Protection Area (SPA) of the Little Seneca Creek Watershed.

Stormwater Management: Water quantity control and quality control will be provided via a series of six vernal pools and stone infiltration/recharge trenches along the trail. Additionally, non-structural measures will also be implemented along the trail system.

Sediment Control: A double row of silt fence will be acceptable for sediment control since the project will be phased into 1000 linear foot sections. Immediate stabilization is to be emphasized on the detailed sediment control/stormwater management plan.

Performance Goals: The performance goals that were established at the pre-application meeting are to be met as specified in the Preliminary/Final Water Quality Plan. They are as follows:

1. Minimize impacts to aquatic life habitat.
2. Minimize increases of storm flow runoff.
3. Minimize sediment loading.
4. Identify and protect stream banks prone to erosion and slumping.



Monitoring: The monitoring must be in accordance with the BMP monitoring protocols which have been established by the Department of Permitting Services (DPS) and Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). Prior to the start of any monitoring activity, a meeting is to be held on site with DEP, DPS and those responsible for conducting the monitoring to establish the monitoring parameters. The following is a list of the monitoring requirements that were established at the pre-application meeting:

- Establish ten cross sections in the adjacent stream channel (the locations are to be determined in a joint field meeting). The monitoring of these cross sections will be done by the developer of the Clarksburg Village subdivision per a previous agreement.

Conditions of Approval: The following conditions must be addressed in the initial submission of the detailed sediment control/stormwater management plan. This list may not be all inclusive and may change based on available information at the time of the review:

1. Provide the stream bank improvements as specified in the Preliminary/Final Water Quality Plan.
2. Work with Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection biologists in the design and construction of the proposed vernal pools to minimize mosquito breeding.

Any divergence from the information provided to this office; or additional information received during the development process; or a change in an applicable Executive Regulation may constitute grounds to rescind or amend any approval actions taken, and to reevaluate the site for additional or amended Water Quality Plan requirements.

If you have any questions regarding these actions, please feel free to contact Leo Galanko at (240) 777-6242.

Sincerely,



Richard R. Brush, Manager
Water Resources Section
Division of Land Development Services

RRB:dm CN206235

cc: M. Shaneman
M. Pfefferle
L. Galanko
SM File # 206235

Qn: on-site 1.7 ac
Ql: on-site 1.7 ac.