

Item # 1, 2

Agenda date: July 1, 2004

MEMORANDUM

To: Montgomery County Planning Board

Via: Jeff Zyontz, Chief, Countywide Planning
Jorge A. Valladares, P.E., Chief, Environmental Planning
John E. Hench, Natural Resources Manager, Park Planning and Resources Analysis Unit

From: Doug Redmond, Principal Natural Resources Specialist,
Park Planning and Resources Analysis Unit

Subject: Mandatory Referral 04901-DEP-1: Lower Hawlings River Stream Restoration Project

Recommendation:

Approve the construction of a stream restoration project in the Lower Hawlings River.

Background: The Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is proposing a stream restoration project along the Lower Hawlings River mainstem. The proposed project, located just upstream of Brighton Dam Road, will stabilize a 2800-foot degraded stream channel that flows through M-NCPPC parkland. The Hawlings River is a tributary to the Patuxent River, flowing into the Patuxent upstream of the Rocky Gorge Reservoir, a WSSC drinking water supply reservoir. The contributing drainage area is about 16 square miles and is characterized by mainly low-density single-family residential with agriculture interspersed. A map of the project area is attached.

This project, referred to as Lower Hawlings River Stream Restoration Project 7a, is one of 12 identified through the Hawlings River Watershed Restoration Study completed in February 2003. The 12 proposed projects cover about 15 miles out of the total 98.2 miles in the Hawlings River watershed, and are intended to protect the integrity of the stream system and to reduce the pollutant load delivered to the reservoir.

Stream Restoration Design: The project will reduce the amount of sediment and pollution from bank and streambed erosion and will preserve and enhance instream biological conditions. The project will provide for increased floodplain access for floodwaters, as well as stabilizing the streambanks, adding instream habitat structures, and improving the stream buffer. Instream habitat enhancements will include riffle habitat creation, pool enhancement, and maintenance of large woody debris in the stream. The 60% plans have been reviewed by M-NCPPC and other agencies. Work has begun on the 90% design, which will incorporate all comments from the state and local agencies.

Rare, Cultural, Historic, and Archaeological Resources: DEP's consultant has submitted requests for information on rare, cultural, historic, and archaeological resources to the Office of Preservation Services of the Maryland Historical Trust and to the Wildlife and Heritage Service of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR). As of June 30, 2004, no response has been received.

Natural Resource Inventory and Forest Stand Delineation (NRI/FSD): The following information was submitted as part of the environmental review required for stream restoration projects.

- Jurisdictional wetland delineation for the project area and a minimum of 100 feet beyond the limit of disturbance
- Identification of forest and tree stands of the project area plus the first 25-50 feet outside the project area: size, species, and condition of individual 6" and greater trees within the project area and the first 25 ft outside; size, species, and condition of individual trees greater than 24 inches in diameter at 4.5 feet above ground in the area between 25 and 50 feet outside the project area
- Brief general description of forest stands (including acreage, dominant, and codominant tree species, size class, stand condition, and priority for retention)
- Narrative on stand quality, health, and percent of invasive species present
- Topography, perennial and intermittent streams, floodplains, wetlands, and stream and wetland buffers in accordance with M-NCPPC environmental guidelines.

The memo from Environmental Planning approving the preliminary forest conservation plan is attached.

Montgomery County Noise Ordinance: DEP will perform all construction activities in accordance to Section 31 (b) of the County code.

Traffic Impact Statement: DEP will coordinate with the appropriate County agencies to provide any necessary traffic control at the construction entrance. The construction entrance will be from Brighton Dam Road, on the east side of the Hawlings River.

Public Meetings: A public meeting was held December 12, 2003 to provide adjacent residents the opportunity to review and comment on preliminary plans for the project. There was no opposition to the project from the nine attendees. There were questions about how the project might affect access to County parkland and any effect on the existing periodic flooding at the Brighton Dam Road crossing.

Funding: The proposed stream restoration design and construction is being funded by the Montgomery County Capital Improvements Program, with cost-share funding from the Federal Section 319 Nonpoint Source grants program administered through the MD DNR.

Implementation: If approval is granted, construction is expected to begin in the late summer of 2004, and be completed by December 31, 2004.

Maintenance: Maintenance of stream restoration structures, if required, will be coordinated between DEP and M-NCPPC. The reach is entirely within publicly owned property and project access will be from publicly owned property.

Pc: John Carter
Candy Bunnag
Andy Frank
Brian Murphy
Jim Humerick
Cameron Weigand



THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 24, 2004

TO: Doug Redmond, Principal Natural Resources Management Specialist, Park Planning and Resources Analysis Unit, Countywide Planning Division

FROM: Candy Bunnag^{CB}, Planner Coordinator, Environmental Planning Unit, Countywide Planning Division

SUBJECT: DEP Hawlings River Stream Restoration Project -- Forest Conservation Plan

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Approval of the preliminary forest conservation plan with the following condition:

1. Submit a final forest conservation plan, including a final reforestation planting plan, for review and approval by M-NCPPC staff.

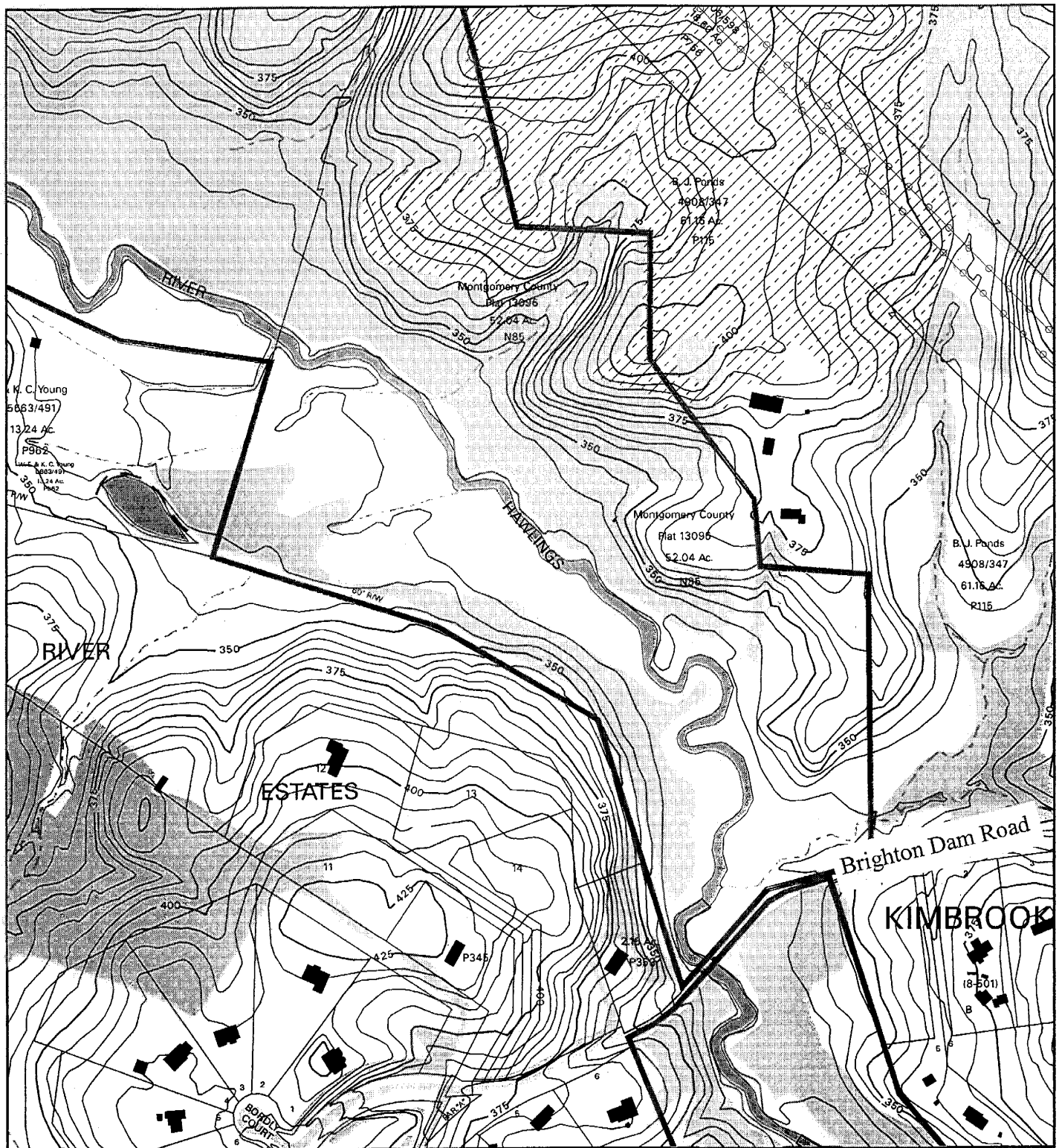
DISCUSSION

DEP's proposed stream restoration project along the Lower Hawlings River mainstem is located within the Hawlings River Stream Valley Park. Roughly 2800 linear feet of degraded stream will be restored through stream bank stabilization, stream habitat creation, and some buffer regrading and revegetation.

The 52-acre stream valley park includes about 26.6 acres of forest. The preliminary forest conservation plan estimates that 0.23 acre of forest will be cleared for the project and that 0.25 acre of reforestation will occur. Both the proposed clearing and reforestation will be along the sections of stream to be restored. The proposed project meets the requirements of the forest conservation law.

It should be noted that DEP will refine the proposed project, based on extensive comments by M-NCPPC staff. These revisions should reduce the amount of forest cleared relative to that shown in the preliminary forest conservation plan. The final forest conservation plan should reflect these changes, as well as include a detailed reforestation planting plan.

HAWLINGS RIVER STREAM RESTORATION



Map compiled on June 17, 2004 at 8:39 AM | Site located on base sheet no - 228NW02

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Key Map

