

ATTACHMENT # C

TITLE: Communication Received since Packet Completed for Planning Board Briefing # 5, January 13, 2005 to January 28, 2005.

RECEIVED
0011
JAN 10 2005

MCP-CTRACK

From: PWPASSOC@aol.com
Sent: Sunday, January 09, 2005 4:07 PM
To: MCP-Chairman
Cc: COUNCILMEMBER.PRAISNER@MONTGOMERYCOUNTYMD.GOV; Acbrownvmd@aol.com; STUART.ROCHESTER@OSD.MIL; Weiss, Piera
Subject: Drinking Water

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN
THE MARYLAND NATIONAL CAPITAL
PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

Mr. Berlage -

Attached is the oral testimony I gave at the January 8 Public Hearing on the ICC, on behalf of the Patuxent Watershed Protective Association, Inc. I'll be sending you a copy of our more extensive written testimony. As you'll see, these documents clearly demonstrate that the proposed ICC Corridor 2 is a serious threat to Montgomery County's drinking water and public health. Once you've had a chance to evaluate our testimony, I'd appreciate the opportunity to discuss it with you.

I'd also like to discuss a related subject. Several proposals are being prepared for zoning variances/master plan exceptions in the Burtonsville area, on the north side of MD 198. The research I did on reservoir vulnerability, in preparation for the ICC testimony, has strengthened my view that as a matter of policy, no such variances or exceptions should be made in Rocky Gorge watershed.

I look forward to speaking with you.

Jim Hughes

PATUXENT WATERSHED
PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION, INC.



A. C. Brown
President
301-421-9655

J. J. Hughes
Vice President
301-421-4136

PWPASSOC@AOL.COM
4408 DUSTIN ROAD BURTONSVILLE, MD 20866-1025

ORAL TESTIMONY AGAINST ICC CORRIDOR 2, JANUARY 8, 2005

Good morning. I'm Jim Hughes, Vice President of the Patuxent Watershed Protective Association, Inc. (PWPA). Thank you for this opportunity to present our views and findings.

Due to time constraints, this verbal testimony is only a partial presentation of our more detailed and documented written testimony that I'm submitting today. **The written testimony clearly demonstrates an issue of critical importance to Montgomery and Prince Georges County residents. Corridor 2 exposes our drinking water and public health to serious risks beyond what can reasonably be left to questionable plans for minimization and mitigation.**

Let me start with some background:

Rocky Gorge Reservoir provides daily drinking water for over 500,000 Montgomery and Prince Georges' County residents. It's WSSC's reserve storage for peak summer months and drought. Rocky Gorge also provides the entire WSSC emergency backup capacity for 1,500,000 bi-county residents in this age of Homeland Security concerns.

The land owned by WSSC is only a small portion of the reservoir watershed that, by definition, is all the land from which water drains into the reservoir. The watershed is officially categorized by the state as both in need of restoration and in need of special protection.

Corridor 2, including the massive interchange in Burtonsville, would go right through the heart of the watershed.

REFER TO MAP

[See page 2 in written testimony]

I only have time for the basic ABCs of our written testimony. So here goes...

A is for "Assessment"

The Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) has been responsible for our reservoirs for many decades, and works hard to achieve excellent levels of water quality. Here's part of the assessment WSSC, our drinking water expert, gave to the ICC Project:

- Interest in protection of the reservoirs has been intensified due to a fundamental change in thinking of water supply and public health professionals. The general thinking was that filtration and chlorination could produce safe drinking water. Now it has become clear that treatment is not the panacea and there is a need for a multi-barrier approach against contamination. Reservoir protection is the first barrier against contamination and storage loss.
- Water quality standards are increasing in recognition of a rapid increase in sensitive populations of children, persons with compromised immune systems, and pregnant women.
- Our reservoir is already under stress and reservoirs clear toxins very slowly.
- WSSC doubts that proposed solutions for spills and other problems will work.
- Our reservoirs are non-renewable resources; practically speaking, they can't be replaced or dredged.
- The National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) requires water supply reservoirs to be protected for "present and future generations."
- Corridor 2 could result in complete loss of the reservoir for an extended period of time in the event of a hazardous material spill. [The Patuxent River Commission also expressed this concern.]

Back to the ABCs...B is for "But"

...as in **but** the ICC Project doesn't get it:

- The ICC Project failed to recognize that drinking water is a special and unique resource. As a case in point, a Brown Trout Technical Group was formed, and brown trout are cited 15 times in 10 of 18 Summaries of ICC Inter-Agency Working Group Meetings. This is not inappropriate, but it is illustrative of how differently a priority topic is treated. No Drinking Water Group was formed and it has only a few scattered mentions. The one specific recommendation for a reservoir stream crossing is to provide for deer passage.
- The Corridors map, S-1, in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement doesn't even show the reservoir watershed.
- "Principals (+1)" is the policy group for ICC Project. The summary of their first meeting has a paragraph that defines an approach to addressing environmental problems. It espouses "avoidance, then minimization, then mitigation". But the ICC Project made a conscious decision not to avoid our drinking water when they retained Corridor 2 as an alternative.
- The ICC Project's solution for this, described on page S-22 is to "minimize" impact by offering a Corridor 2 option that eliminates the first half of their intrusion through the reservoir watershed. Leaving the second half, which includes the massive Burtonsville interchange, is hardly a minimized outcome. It's amounts to telling our residents that Corridor 2 will only expose their families to half as much unnecessary new health risks as it could have.
- The Draft Statement acknowledges that a hazardous material spill could shut the reservoir completely down for an extended period, but doesn't bother to include a hazardous material spill risk analysis.

Back to ABCs one last time...C is for "Conclusion"

I'll end where I began:

Corridor 2 exposes our drinking water and public health to serious risks beyond what can reasonably be left to questionable plans for minimization and mitigation.

**THERE'S ONLY ONE RESPONSIBLE APPROACH
TO CORRIDOR 2... DON'T GO THERE!!**

PATUXENT WATERSHED
PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION, INC.



PWPASSOC@AOL.COM
4408 DUSTIN ROAD BURTONSVILLE, MD 20866-1025

ICC STUDY PUBLIC HEARING
Saturday, January 8, 2005
James Blake High School
300 Norwood Road, Silver Spring MD 20905

TESTIMONY OPPOSING ICC CORRIDOR 2

presented by

Jim Hughes, Vice President
On behalf of Patuxent Watershed Protective Association, Inc.
A non-profit organization

COVER ONLY

#5

MCP-Chairman

From: David Dunmire [DDunmire@tscwo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, January 12, 2005 4:38 PM
To: MCP-Chairman
Cc: Neal Fitzpatrick (neal@audubonnaturalist.org)
Subject: ICC Impacts

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OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN
THE MARYLAND NATIONAL CAPITAL
PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION



mncppc icc
npacts Part 1.pc

Chairman Berlage,

The attached file summarizes MNCPPC results from the previous ICC study on ICC impacts to NWB and PB Parks. The current draft staff memo is a marked departure from this, to say the least. Why is it that we're not seeing this type of analysis on park impacts now?

David



Eyes of Paint Branch

Grassroots Conservation, Education, and Action for the Paint Branch and its Watershed

January 18, 2005

RECEIVED
0088
JAN 18 2005

Derick Berlage, Chairman
Montgomery County Planning Board
Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning Commission
8787 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20910

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN
THE MARYLAND NATIONAL CAPITAL
PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

Dear Chairman Berlage:

There is widespread concern that it will be extremely difficult for the federal environmental agencies to deny permits for the ICC in this study because of political and procedural pressures, regardless of how severe and extensive the impacts may be. As the landowner and resource manager, you have the unique opportunity to offer information on the value of parkland, its intended use and functions, and the significance of potential park impacts, mitigation, and replacement. Section 4(f) explicitly provides this opportunity for your input to be included in the study process. Given the current political climate, **your input on parkland value and function, and assessment of impacts is absolutely critical.**

The current DEIS¹ states that the

“Upper Paint Branch Stream Valley Park is mostly forested land and contains no park amenities except for extensive *unauthorized* [emphasis added] hiking and equestrian trails.”

This statement is simply not true and shows a fundamental lack of understanding of the intent of our park system. The extensive trails throughout the Paint Branch Stream Valley and other Montgomery County parks are heavily utilized and enjoyed by many people for a variety of recreational uses. M-NCPPC maintains these trails, and has gone to great lengths to keep the trails in the Upper Paint Branch and Northwest Branch in a natural condition, and has intentionally avoided any type of surfacing and active recreational facilities in these areas. Trout Unlimited, Eyes of Paint Branch, and many other conservation and environmental groups lead educational walks and activities regularly throughout the trails system, and public turnout is always good. These trails are being used exactly as they were intended, for the enjoyment of nature, and it is a gross misrepresentation to characterize this as “unauthorized.”

Many of our parks (conservation parks, stream valley parks, and large portions of regional parks) were created for the specific purpose of natural area preservation, just like a wildlife refuge. Parks such as Paint Branch were designed to maintain viable, diverse

¹ *Intercounty Connector Draft Environmental Impact Statement*, Chapter 4 – Draft Section 4(f) Evaluation, E. Section 2: MD 97 to I-95, 1. Description of Section 4(f) Resources in Section 2, iv Upper Paint Branch Stream Valley Park, page V-28

native plant and animal communities and to allow people to learn about and enjoy these ecosystems. The enjoyment of natural areas and passive recreation are major functions of the county parks system. In a 1997 survey² by the University of Maryland and M-NCPPC, passive recreation activities were found to be the most popular uses within the county parks system.

Impacts on natural areas in parkland were a major concern to M-NCPPC staff in 1997. **The attached figures summarize the results of an analysis by M-NCPPC staff in the previous ICC study on overall parkland impacts from the proposed Inter-County Connector (ICC).** As the steward of all of our parkland, we are sure you agree that impacts on natural areas within parkland can greatly diminish the value and function of the parks, and that sensitive resources such as the Paint Branch are irreplaceable.

Please would you distribute this letter and attachments to the entire Planning Board. Also, please feel free to contact me at 301-576-2363 or at ddunmre@eopb.org if you would like more information or to discuss this matter.

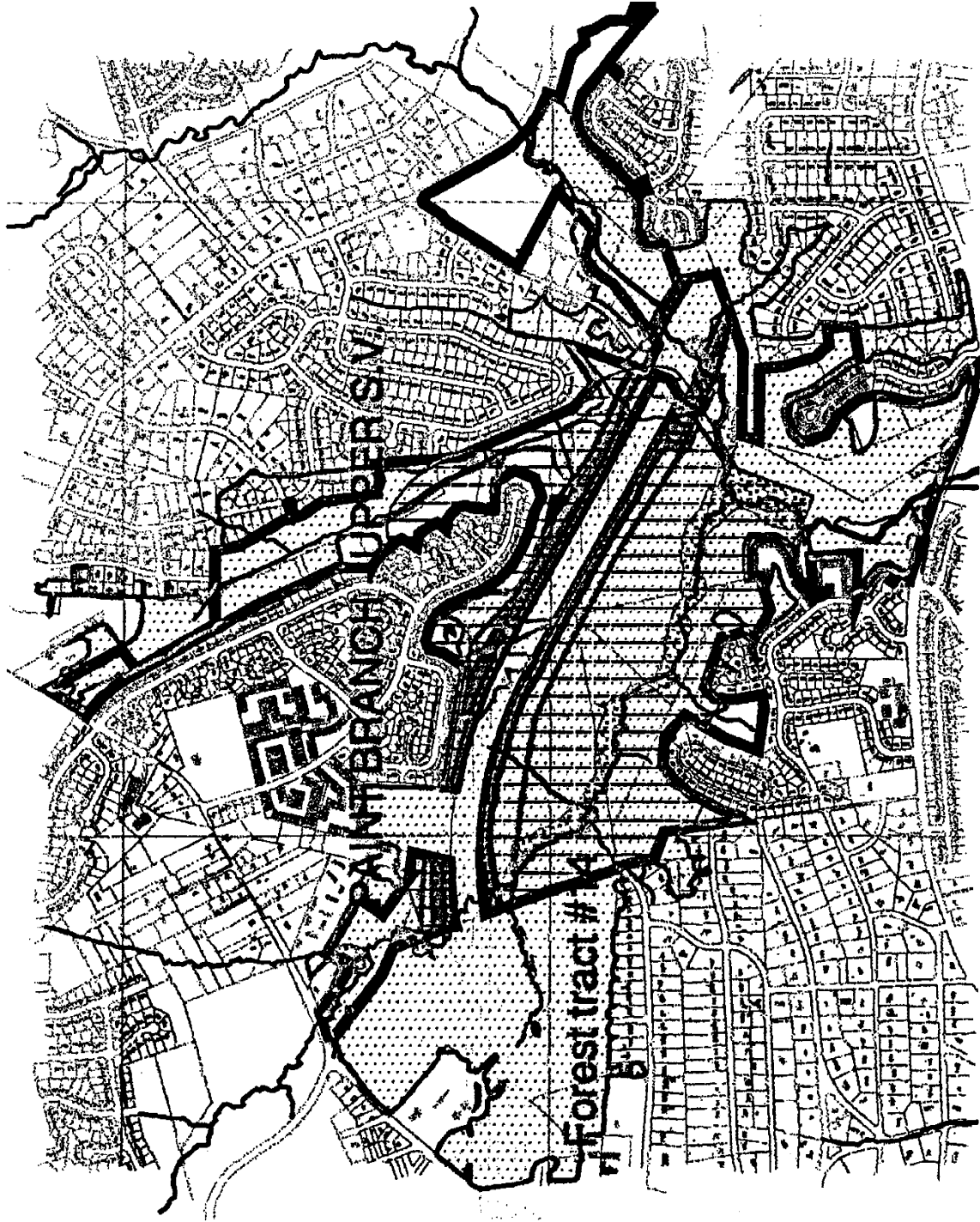
Sincerely,



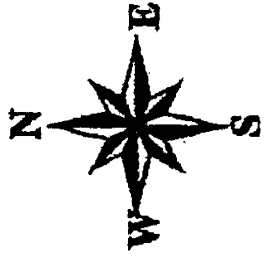
David G. Dunmire, Vice President

² *Park, Recreation, and Open Space for Montgomery County*, University of Maryland, May 1997

Natural Resources Impacts in Parks: Master Plan Alignment 4/5



- Wetlands
- Streams & Ponds
- Screen Impact
- Natural Areas
- Interior Forest Impact
- Noise Impact
- Edge Effect
- Part Property
- Flight of Way



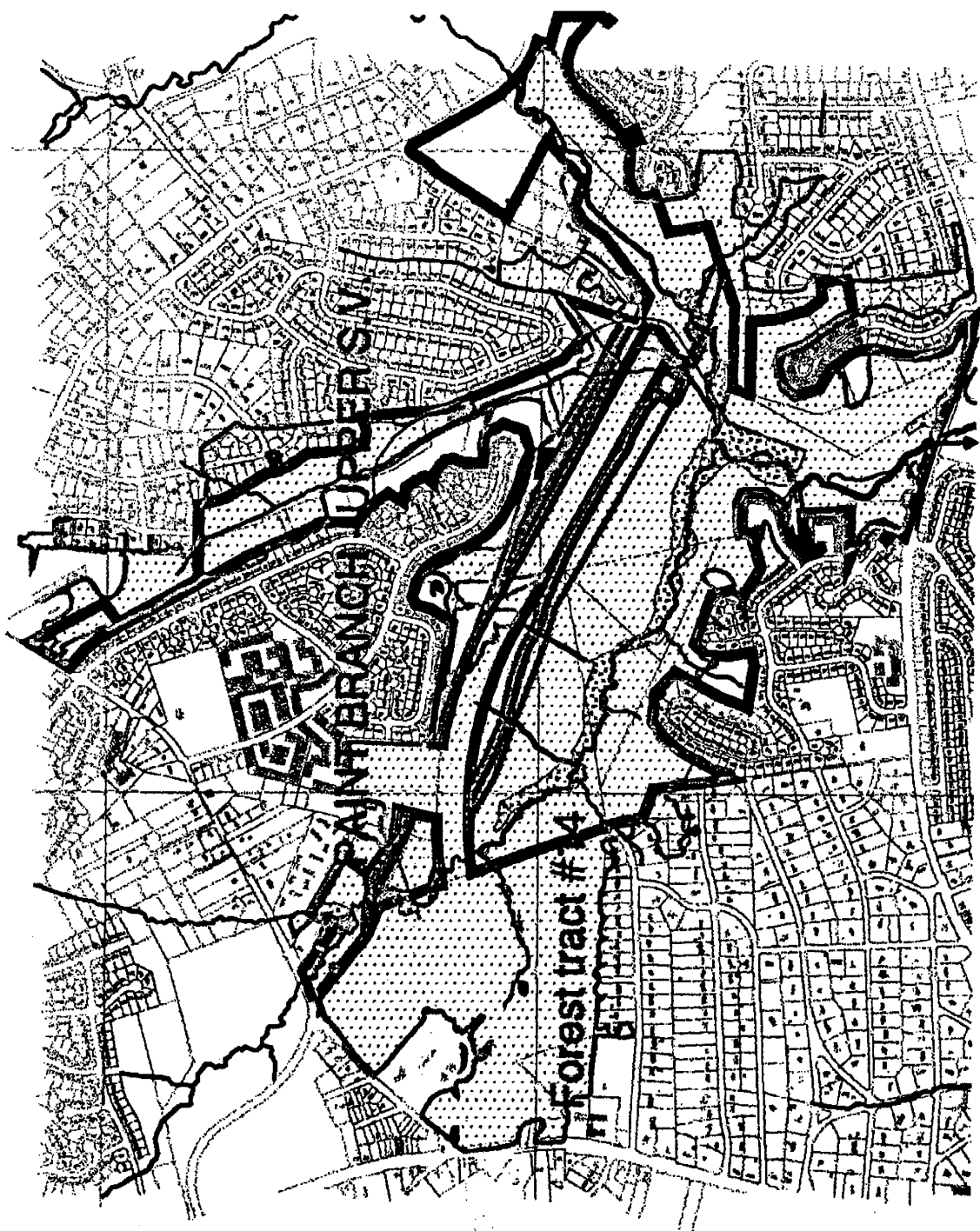
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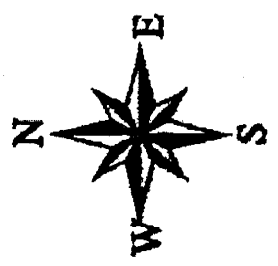
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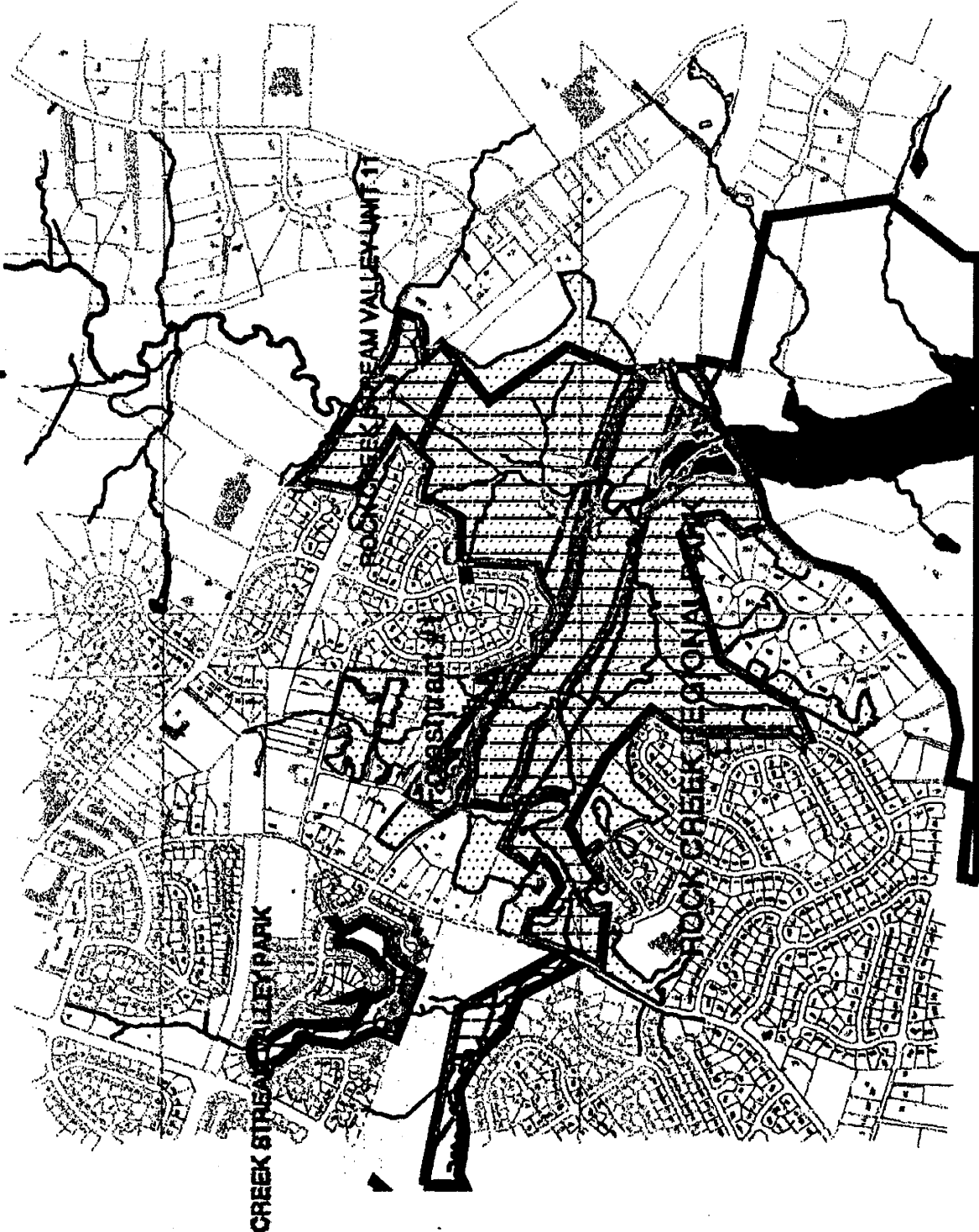
Natural Resources Impacts in Parks: Master Plan Alignment Paint Branch Option



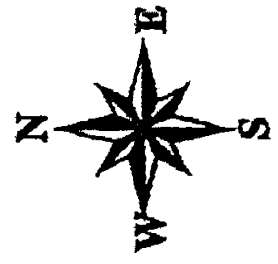
- Wetlands
- Streams & Ponds
- Stream Impact (Paint Branch Option)
- Natural Areas
- Interior Forest Impact
- Waters Impact (Paint Branch Option)
- Edge Effect (Paint Branch Option)
- Park Property
- Right of Way (Paint Branch Option)



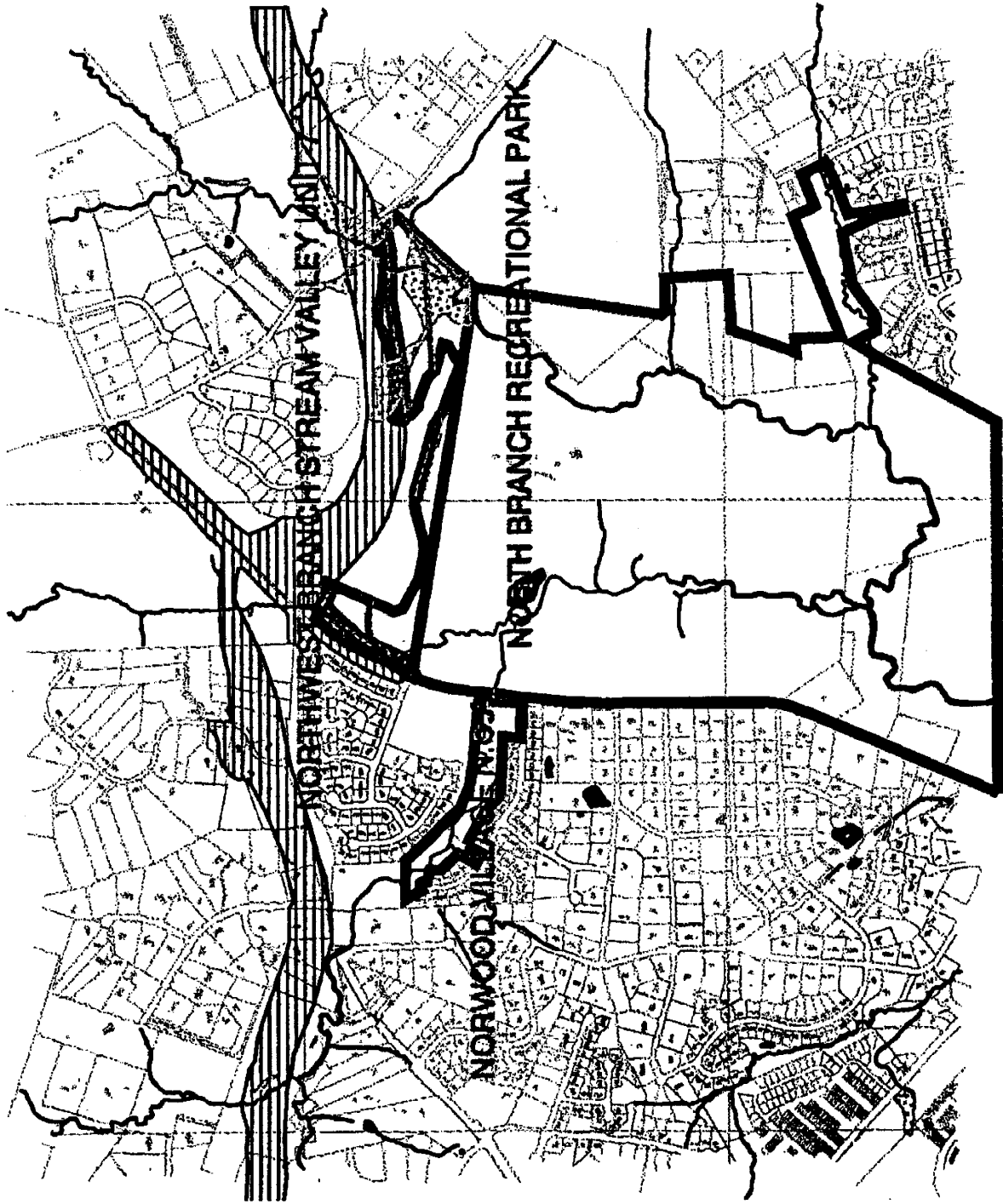
Natural Resources Impacts in Parks: Master Plan Alignment Rock Creek Option



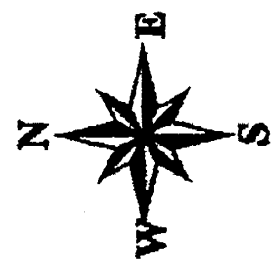
- Wetlands
- Parkland
- Riparian Forest (Rock Creek Option)
- Riparian Forest (Rock Creek Option)
- Riparian Forest (Rock Creek Option)
- Riparian Forest (Rock Creek Option)
- Riparian Forest (Rock Creek Option)
- Riparian Forest (Rock Creek Option)
- Riparian Forest (Rock Creek Option)
- Riparian Forest (Rock Creek Option)
- Riparian Forest (Rock Creek Option)



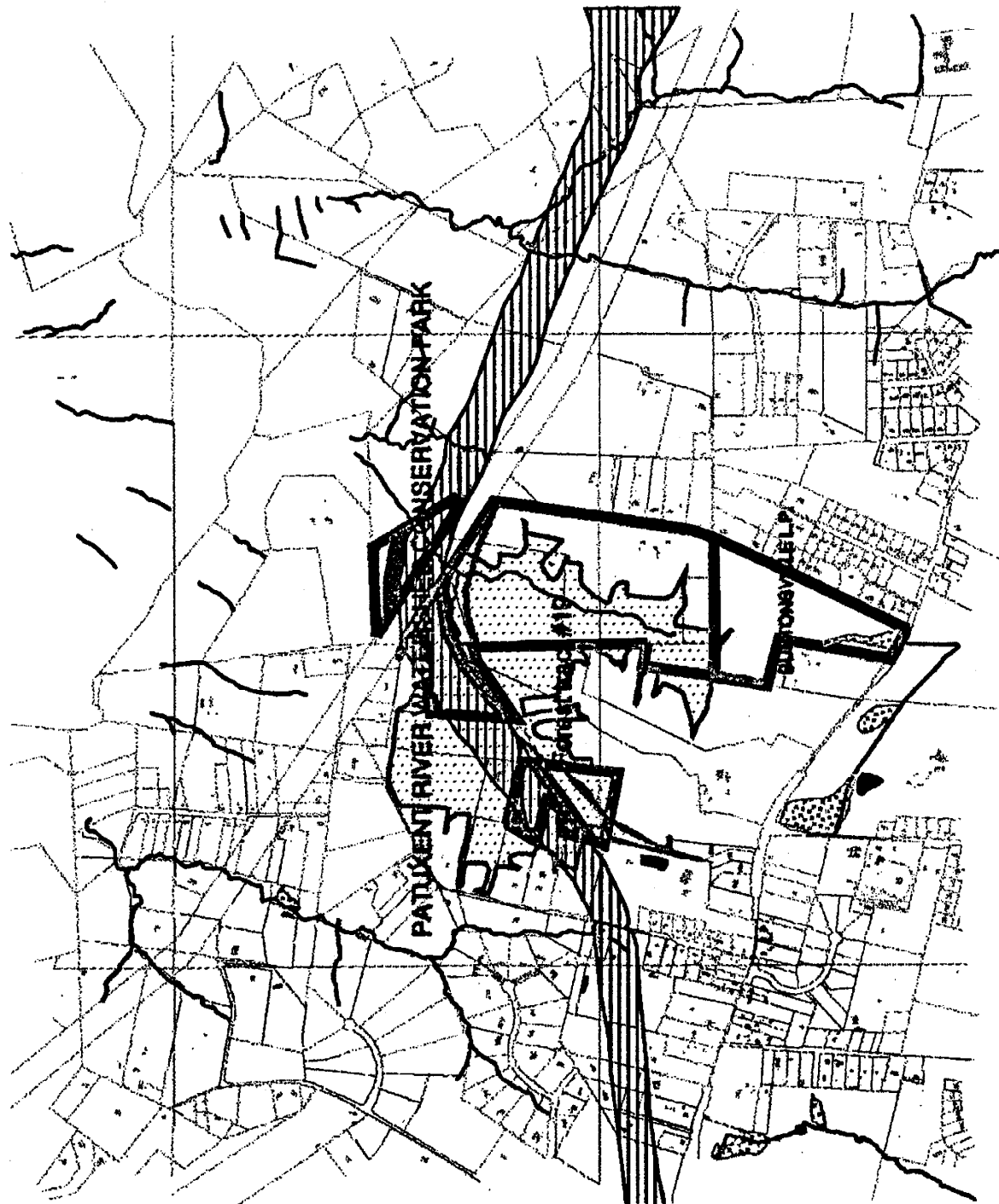
Natural Resources Impacts in Parks: Northern Alignment 1/2



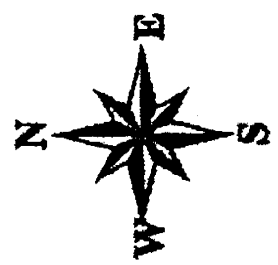
- Wellands
- Streams & Ponds
- Stream Impact
- Interior Forest Impact
- Noise Impact
- Edge Effect
- Park Property
- Right of Way



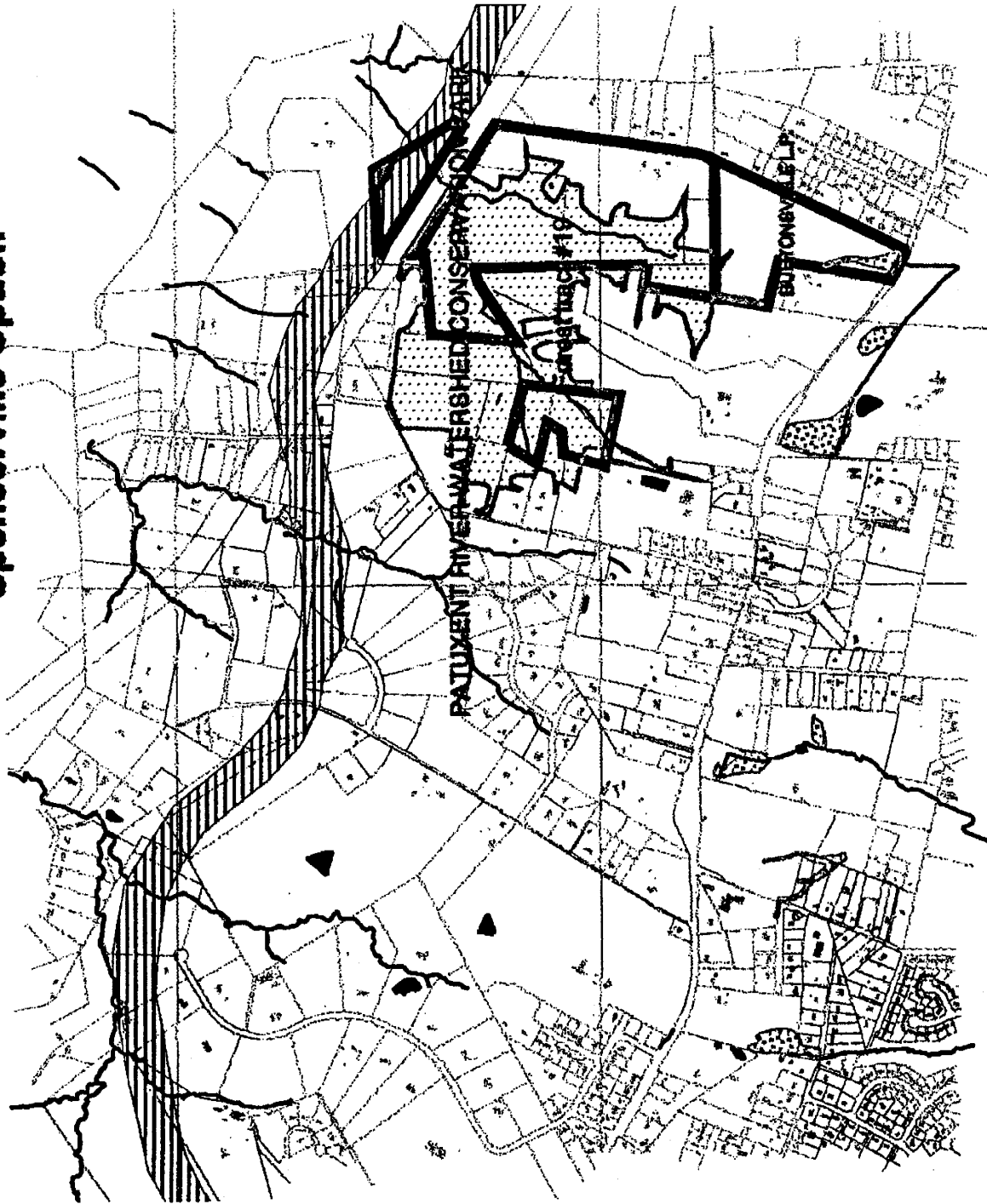
Natural Resources Impacts in Parks: Northern Alignment 2/2



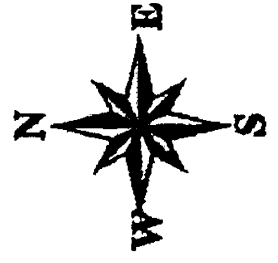
- Wetlands
- Streams & Ponds
- Stream Impact
- Interior Forest Impact
- Noise Impact
- Edge Effect
- Park Property
- Right of Way



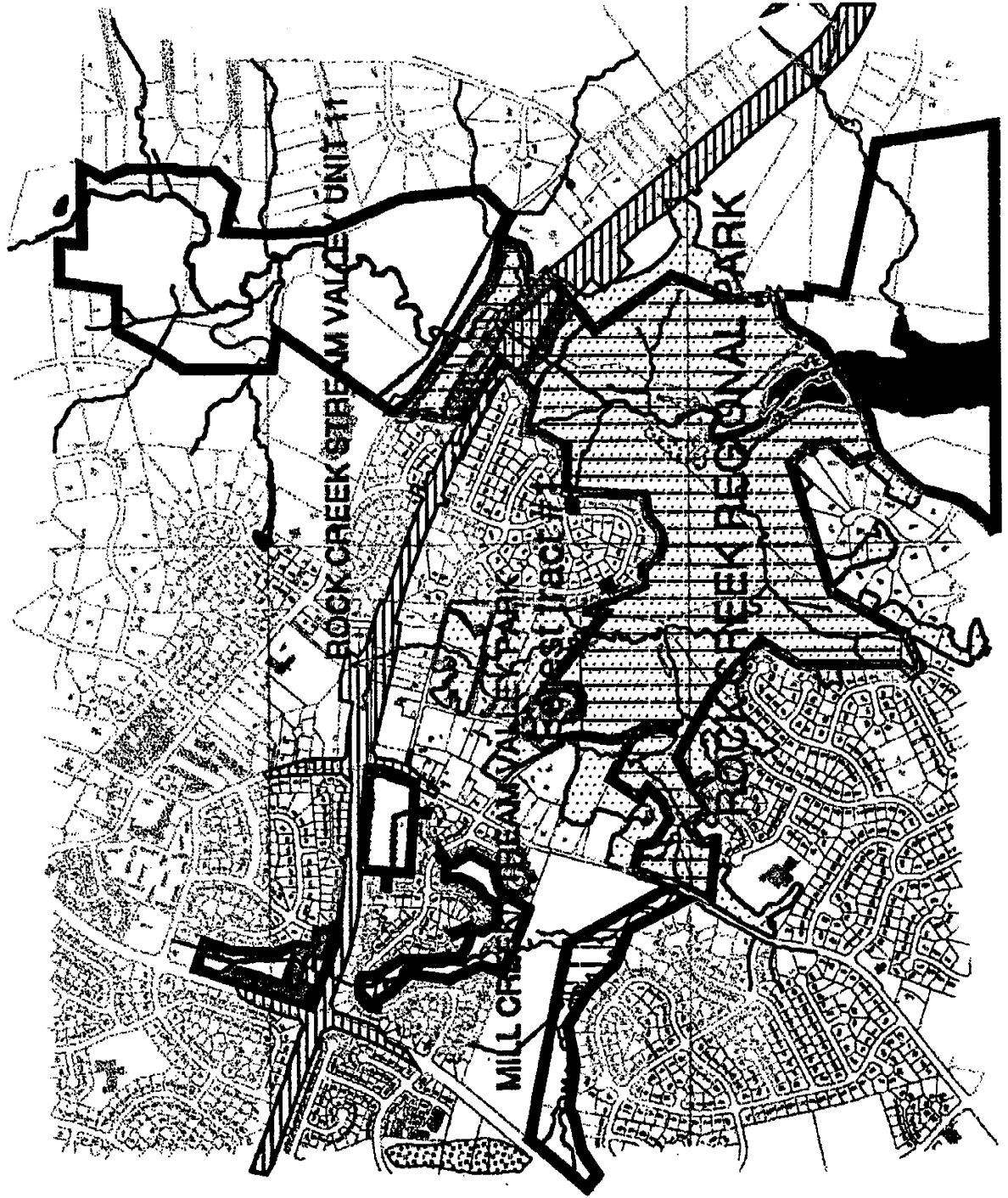
Natural Resources Impacts in Parks: Northern Alignment Spencerville Option



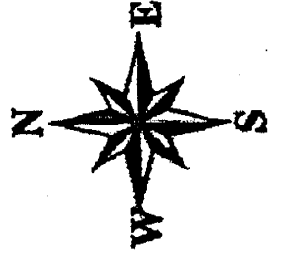
- Wetlands
- Stream Impact (Spencerville Option)
- Interior Forest Impact
- Middle Impact (Spencerville Option)
- Edge Effect (Spencerville Option)
- Park Property
- Flight of Way (Spencerville Option)



Natural Resources Impacts In Parks: Midcounty Alignment 1/3



- Wetlands Streams & Ponds
- Stream Impact
- Natural Areas
- Interior Forest Impact
- Noise Impact
- Edge Effect
- Park Property
- Right of Way



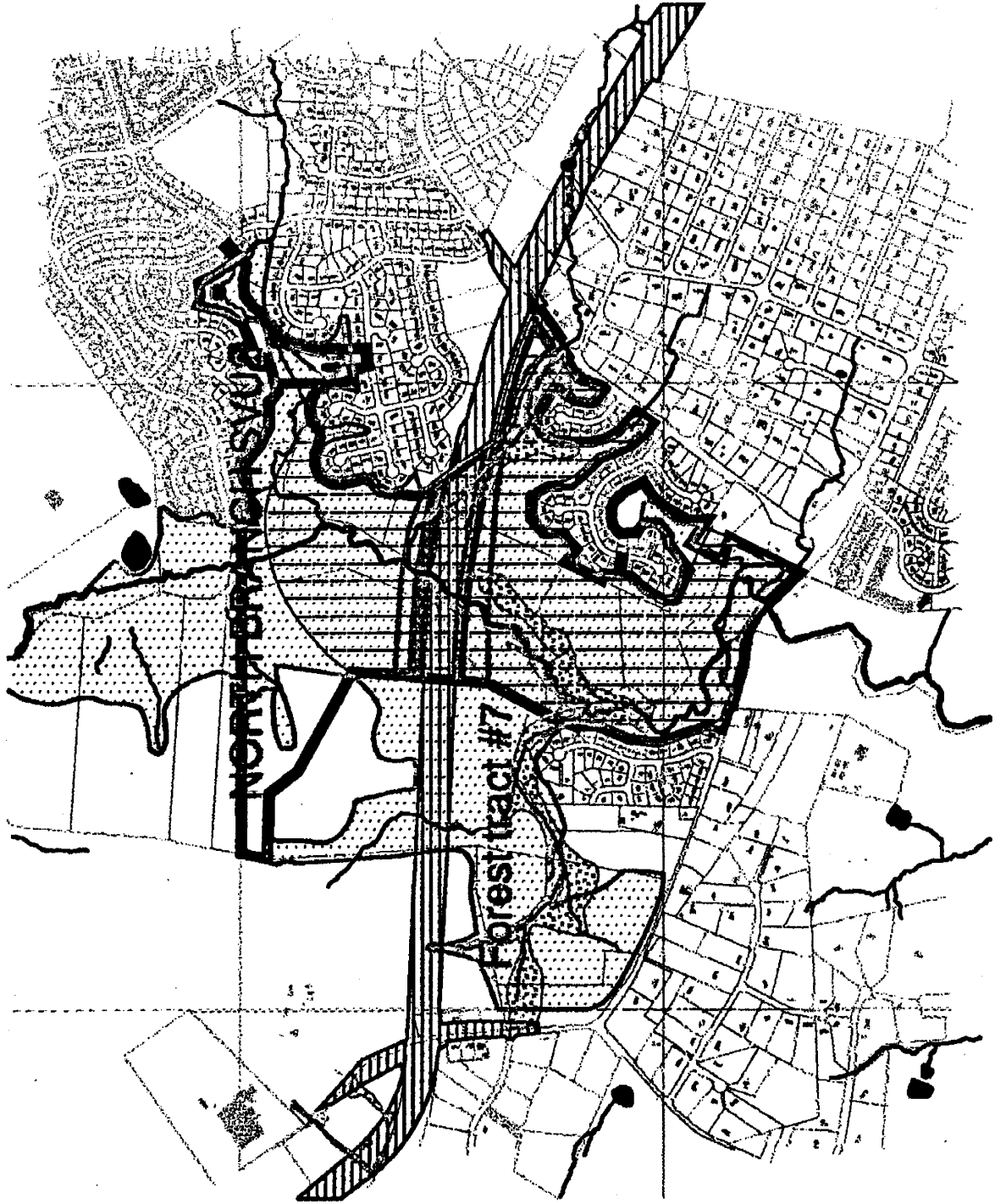
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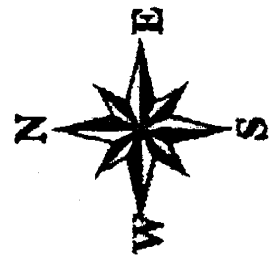
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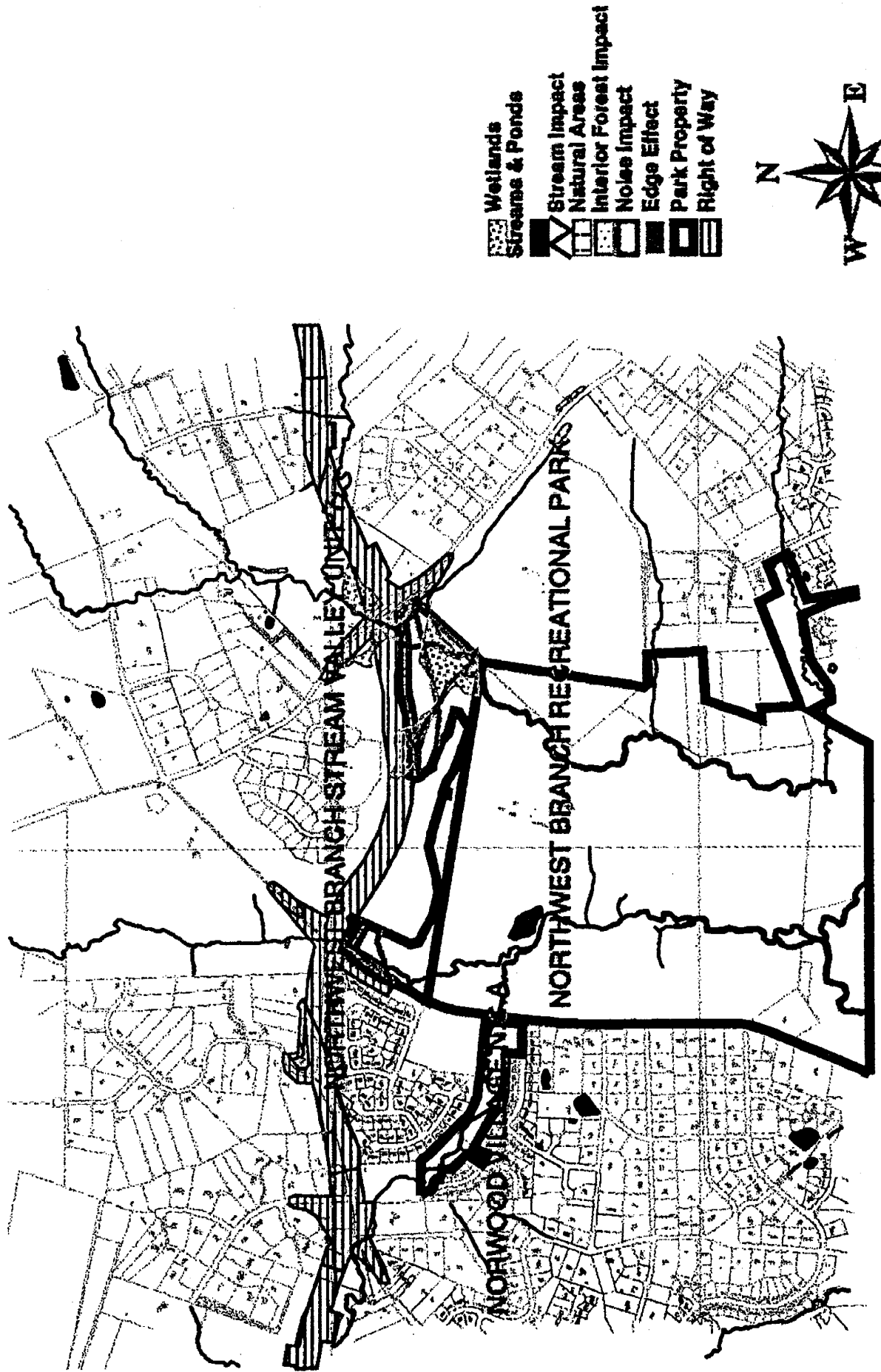
Natural Resources Impacts in Parks: Midcounty Alignment 2/3



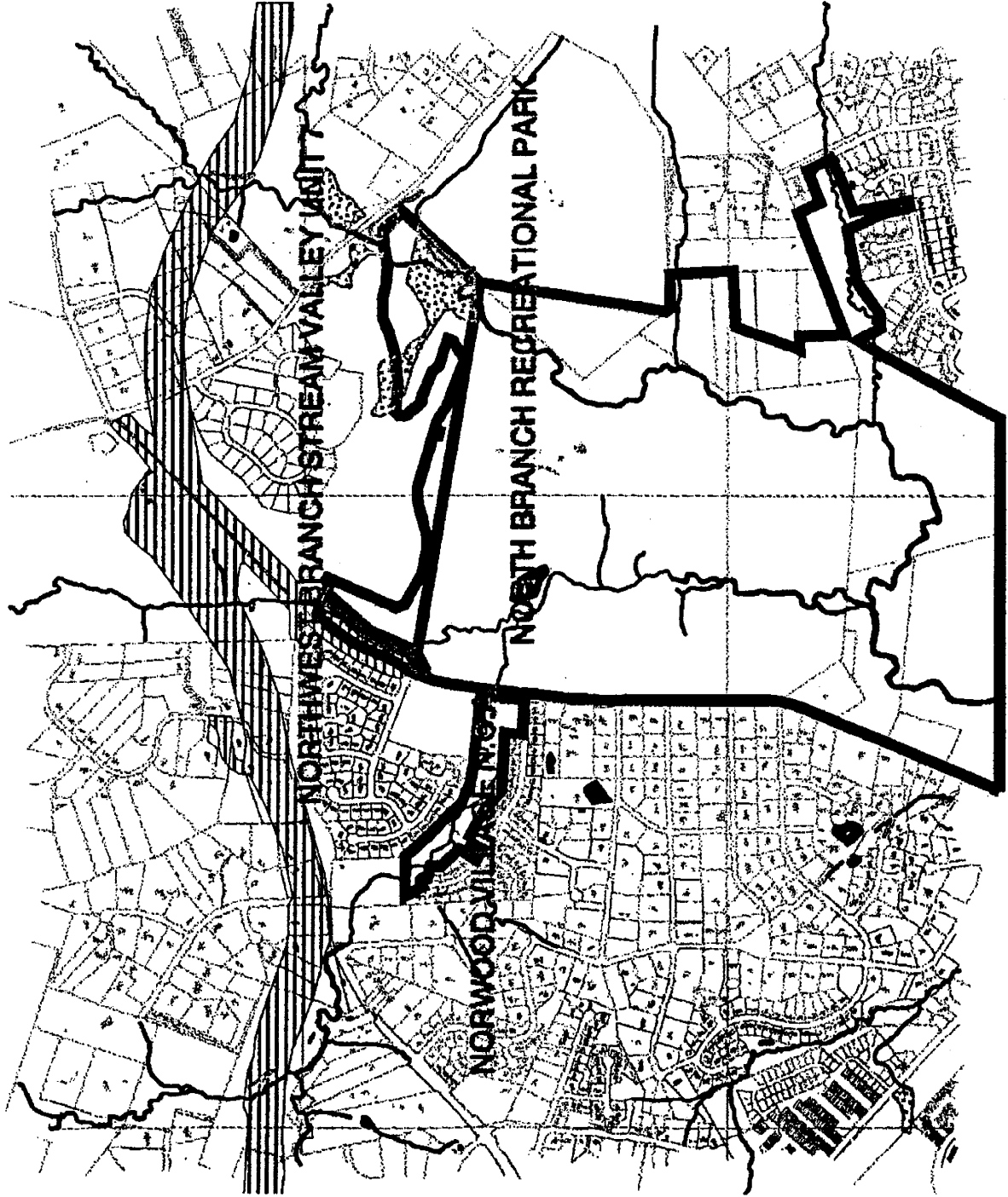
- Wetlands
- Streams & Ponds
- Stream Impact
- Natural Areas
- Interior Forest Impact
- Noise Impact
- Edge Effect
- Park Property
- Right of Way



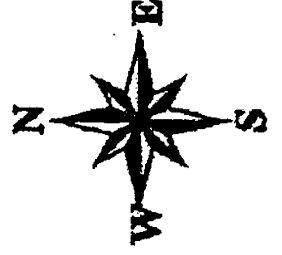
Natural Resources Impacts in Parks: Midcounty Alignment 3/3



Natural Resources Impacts in Parks: Northern Alignment Norwood Option

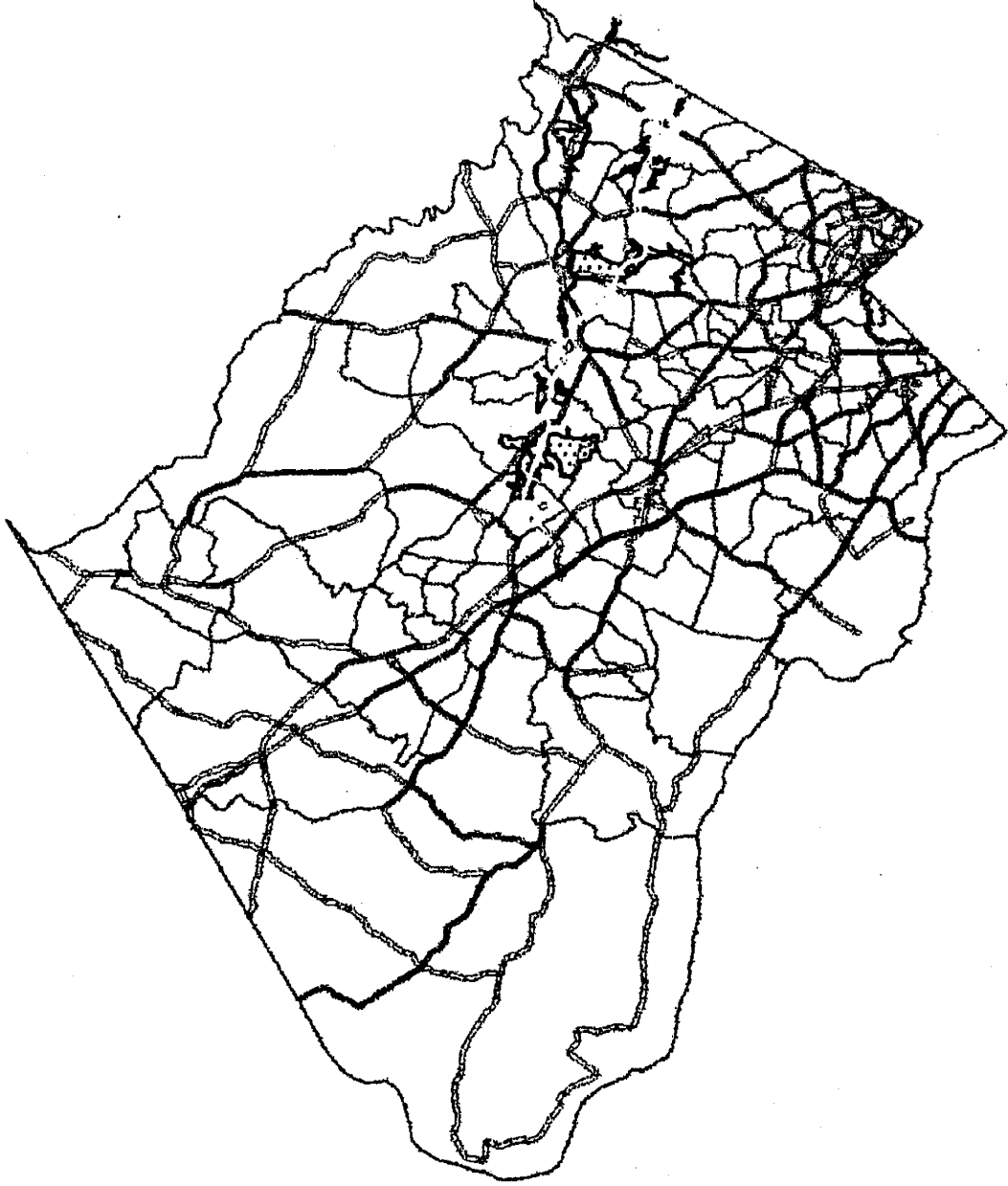


- Wetlands
- Streams & Ponds
- Elevation Impact (Norwood Option)
- Interior Forest Impact
- Noise Impact (Norwood Option)
- Edge Effect (Norwood Option)
- Park Property
- Right of Way (Norwood Option)

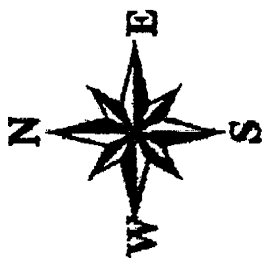


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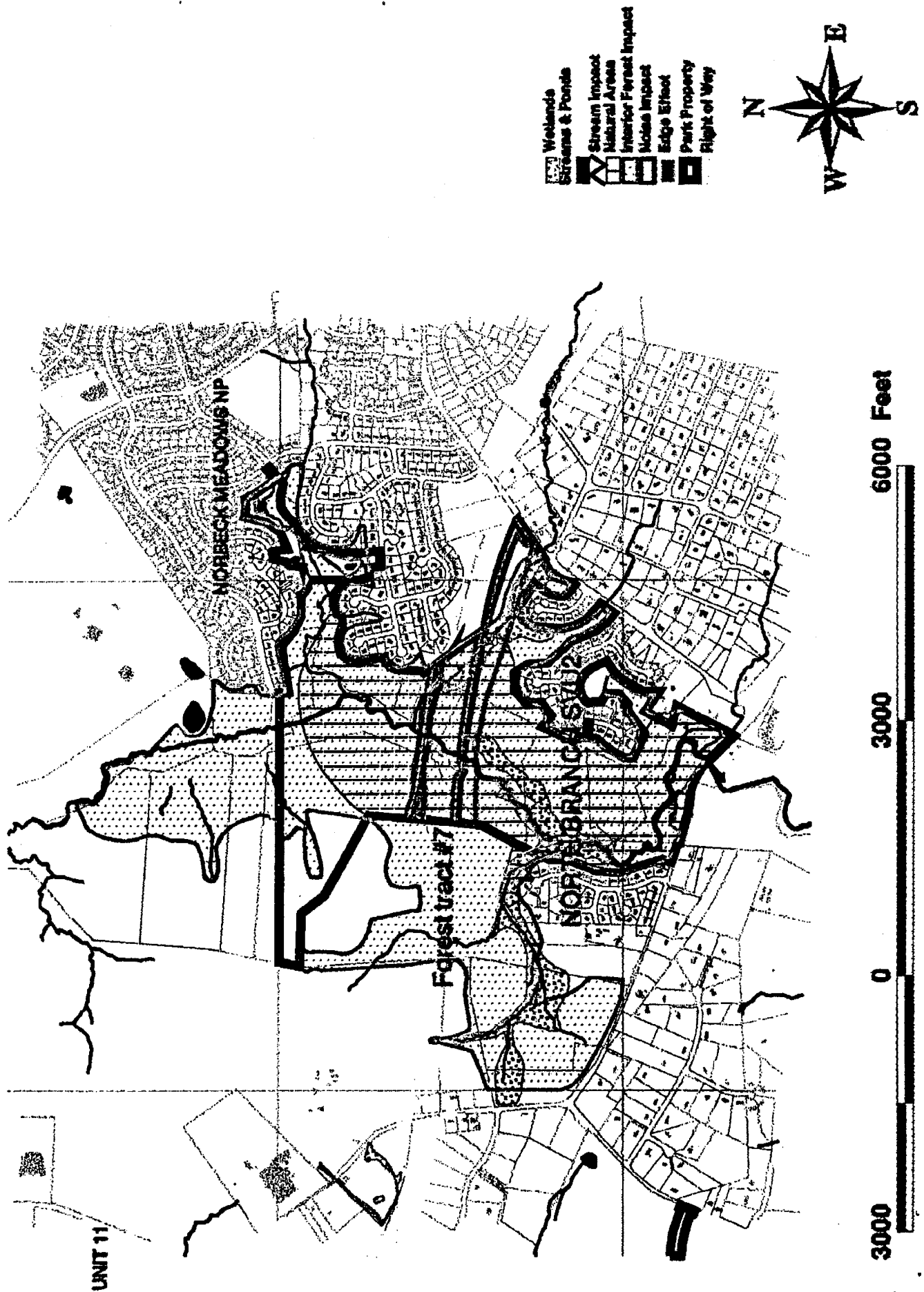
Intercounty Connector (I.C.C.) Alternatives



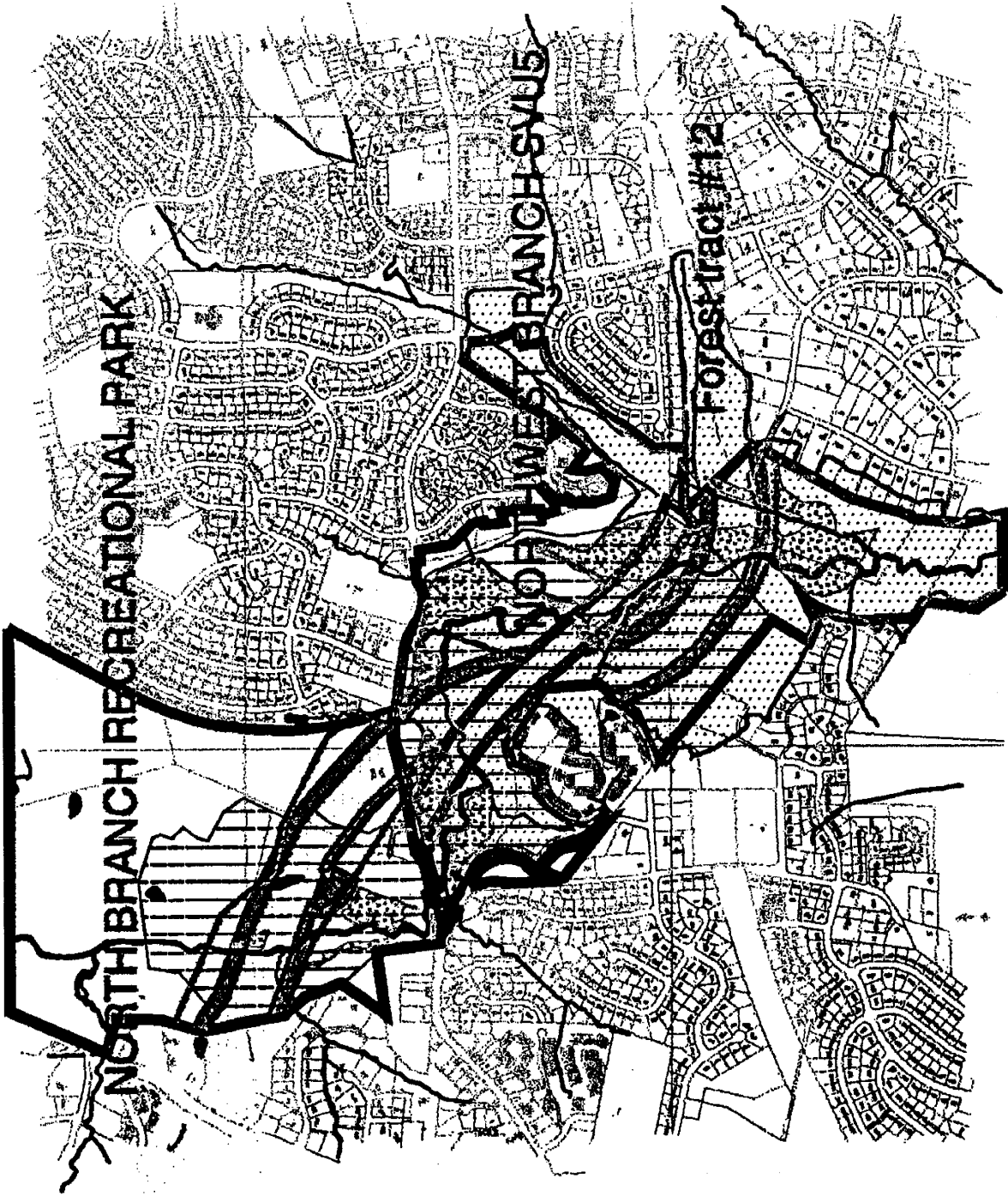
Mainline Plan Alignment
Intercounty Alignment
Public Transit
Public Transit - Limited Capacity
Intercounty Connector - Limited Capacity



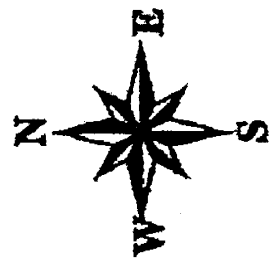
Natural Resources Impacts in Parks: Master Plan Alignment 2/5



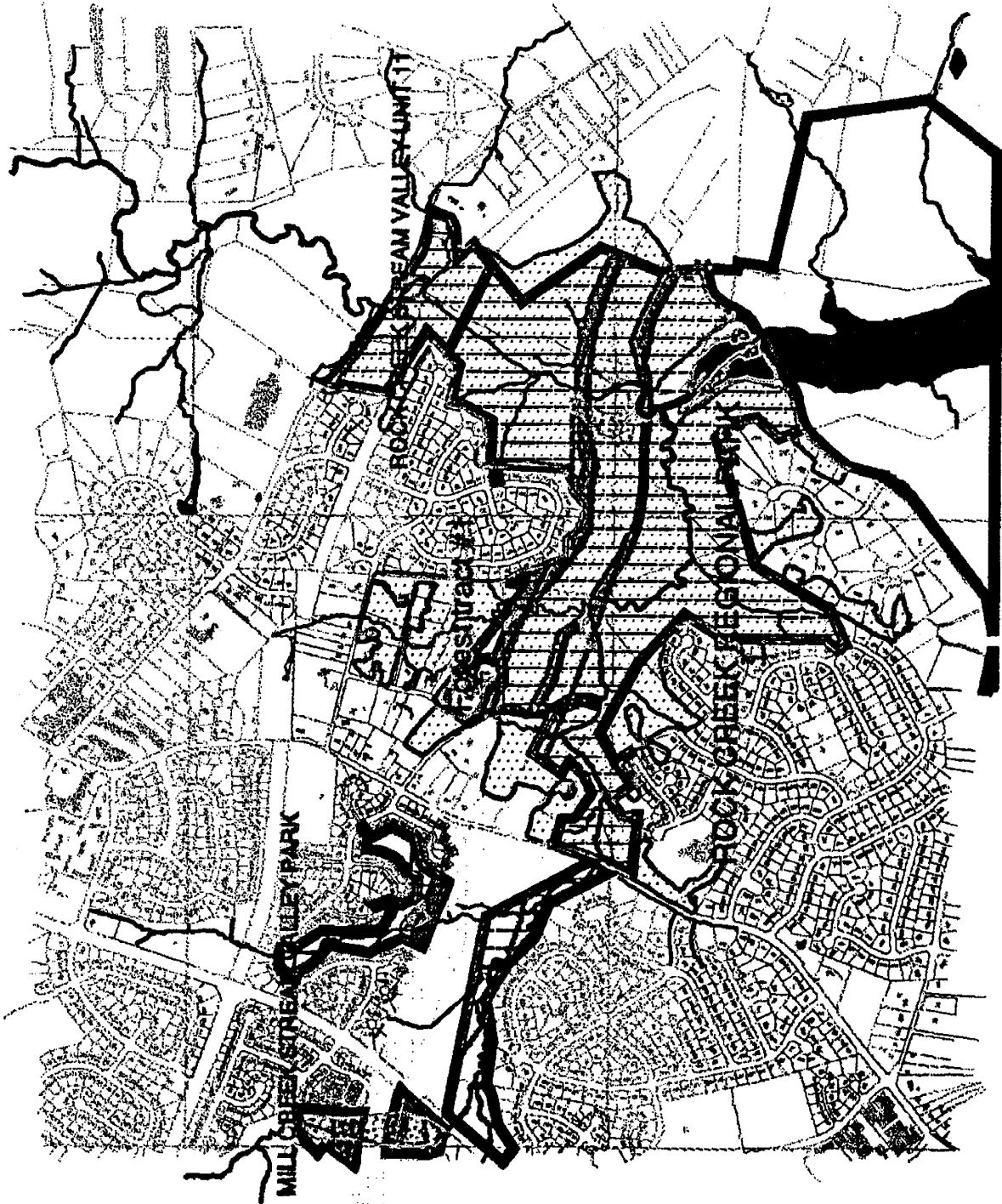
Natural Resources Impacts In Parks: Master Plan Alignment 3/5



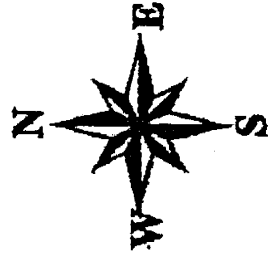
- Wetlands
- Streams & Ponds
- Stream Impact
- Natural Areas
- Interior Forest Impact
- Noise Impact
- Edge Effect
- Park Property
- Right of Way



Natural Resources Impacts in Parks: Master Plan Alignment 1/5



- Wetlands
- Streams & Ponds
- Stream Impact
- Natural Areas
- Interior Forest Impact
- Node Impact
- Edge Effect
- Park Property
- Right of Way



MCP-CTRACK

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JAN 27 2005

From: Donahue, Robert (NIH/NHLBI) [donahue@nhlbi.nih.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, January 26, 2005 2:43 PM
To: MCP-Chairman
Subject: RE: ICC

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN
THE MARYLAND NATIONAL CAPITAL
PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

I apologize, but I would like to change my initial submission as I just noticed a few typographical errors. It should read:

I would like to voice my displeasure with the proposed Inter-County Connector (ICC). I am a veterinarian who has an interest in exotic animal medicine. I have been employed by the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, MD and have resided in Silver Spring, MD since June, 1990. My primary concern is the irreparable damage the ICC would have on the environment of the region. Having boarded a horse in Burtonsville and having explored over the past several years by hoof, by kayak, and by foot the Triadelphia/Rocky Gorge Reservoirs, I have become quite familiar with the wildlife of this region. Needless to say there are a wide number of breeding sites for reptiles (including the eastern box turtle), amphibians (including the tiger salamander), birds (including the American Bald Eagle), invertebrates, and mammals (including beaver). Without question the ICC either alone or in combination with the commercial development of this region following the ICC will have both a direct physical and indirect environmental impact on these sites through chemical runoff and automotive emissions. Amphibians and aquatic macroinvertebrates are particularly sensitive to environmental changes, such as in water pH or salinity, with many species becoming extinct within a particular region following similar road development. These animals can suffer from an increased incidence of infectious diseases associated with immunosuppression following chemical exposure, an increased incidence of cancer and physical abnormalities associated with an increase in genetic mutation rate, and an increased incidence of death associated with the exposure to toxic compounds. One of the easiest ways of demonstrating the significant impact that a road has on a stream or aquifer, for example, is to simply look at the aquatic macroinvertebrate biomonitoring data within a region following placement of a drive way or parking lot on a neighboring stream or aquifer. For example, the simple placement of a parking lot causes a tremendous loss of species diversity and dynamics. Needless to say, the impact of a major highway near a reservoir would be far more significant, especially if one considers that these reservoirs not only support a wide range of breeding grounds for a variety of animal species, including some endangered, but also is used to store 10.2 billion gallons of water for human consumption. Our region is already far too developed. The priority should be on conservation and preservation of native habitats rather than additional roadways and commercial development. Once these habitats altered, they cannot be replaced.

Robert E. Donahue, V.M.D.
Hematology Branch, NHLBI
5 Research Court
Rockville, MD 20850
phone: 301-402-0246
Fax: 301-402-8226

-----Original Message-----

From: MCP-Chairman [mailto:MCP-Chairman@mncppc-mc.org]
Sent: Wednesday, January 26, 2005 10:44 AM
To: Donahue, Robert (NIH/NHLBI)
Subject: RE: ICC

Thank you for your recent email to the M-NCPPC's Montgomery County Planning

Board. Your email will be shared with the Planning Board members and/or appropriate staff, per your request.

For General Information about the Planning Board or the Department of Park and Planning, please log on to <http://www.mc-mncppc.org>

For information about the next Montgomery County Planning Board meeting, please follow these steps: 1. Log on to <http://www.mc-mncppc.org> 2. Click on "Next Planning Board Meeting > INFO" 3. Choose "Planning Board Agenda" or "Current Planning Board Staff Reports"

Please note that the Planning Board Staff Reports are available online on the Monday evening prior to that week's meeting. Planning Board meetings are generally held on Thursdays.

Thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts.

Derick Berlage
Chairman, Montgomery County Planning Board
M-NCPPC
(301) 495-4605

-----Original Message-----

From: Donahue, Robert (NIH/NHLBI) [mailto:donahuer@nhlbi.nih.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, January 26, 2005 10:04 AM
To: MCP-Chairman
Cc: '4donahues@comcast.net'
Subject: ICC

I would like to voice my displeasure with the proposed Inter-County Connector (ICC). I am a veterinarian who has an interest in exotic medicine. I have been employed by the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, MD and have resided in Silver Spring, MD since June, 1990. My primary concern is the irreparable damage the ICC would have on the environment of the region. Having boarded a horse in Burtonsville and having explored over the past several years by hoof, by kayak, and by foot the Triadelphia/Rocky Gorge Reservoirs, I have become quite familiar with the wildlife of this region. Needless to say there are a wide number of breeding sites for reptiles (including the eastern box turtle), amphibians (including the tiger salamander), birds (including American Bald Eagles), invertebrates, and mammals (including beaver). Without question the ICC either alone or in combination with the commercial development of this region following the ICC will have both a direct physical and indirect environmental impact on these sites through chemical runoff and automotive emissions. As you are probably aware already, amphibians and aquatic macroinvertebrates are particularly sensitive to environmental changes, such as in water pH or salinity, with many species becoming extinct within a particular region following similar road development. These animals can suffer from an increased incidence of infectious diseases associated with immunosuppression following chemical exposure, an increased incidence of cancer and physical abnormalities associated with an increase in genetic mutation rate, and an increased incidence of death associated with the exposure to a toxic compound. One of the easiest ways of demonstrating the significant impact that a road has on a stream or aquifer, for example, is to simply look at the aquatic macroinvertebrate biomonitoring data within a region following placement of a drive way or parking lot on a neighboring stream or aquifer. For example, the simple placement of a parking lot causes a tremendous loss of species diversity and dynamics. Needless to say, the impact of a major highway near a reservoir would be far more significant, especially if one considers that these reservoirs not only support a wide range of breeding grounds for a variety of animal species, including some of which are considered endangered, but also serves as a water resource for habitats for an area that includes a reservoir that is used to store 10.2 billion gallons of water for human consumption. Our region is already far too developed. The

priority should be on conservation and preservation of native habitats rather than additional roadways and commercial development. Once altered, they cannot be replaced.

Robert E. Donahue, V.M.D.
Hematology Branch, NHLBI
5 Research Court
Rockville, MD 20850
phone: 301-402-0246
Fax: 301-402-8226

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JAN 27 2005

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN
THE MARYLAND NATIONAL CAPITAL
PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

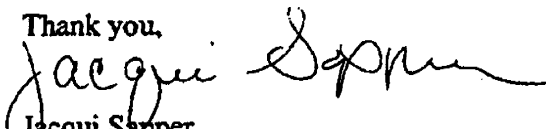
January 27, 2005

Derick P. Berlage
Chairman
Montgomery County Planning Board
8787 Georgia Ave
Silver Spring, Md 20910

Sir,

I am writing to say that building the ICC would be a bad idea. I cannot see how a plan conceived 50 years ago would even be relevant to today's standards. Please rethink this and do not build the ICC. For fear that this letter will not reach you before the Jan. 29, 2005 hearing, I am faxing this and then will follow with regular mail.

Thank you,


Jacquie Sapper
12707 Hammonton Rd
Silver Spring, MD 20904

FAX # 301-495-1320

*Copy of
Testimony*

Stonegate Citizens Association
Silver Spring, Maryland 20905
January 8, 2005

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OK
JAN 25 2005
OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN
THE MARYLAND NATIONAL CAPITAL
PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

Mr. Wesley Mitchell
Mail Stop C-301, Project Planning Division
Maryland State Highway Administration
707 North Calvert Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Re: Intercounty Connector Hearing

My name is Bruce W. Dunkins and I am Chairman of the Legislation and Zoning Committee of the Stonegate Citizens Association. I am speaking on behalf of the 1400 families in the Greater Stonegate Area.

It is our understanding that this hearing is being held to garner comments concerning three alternatives being considered with respect to the construction of the Intercounty Connector.

While we lie closest to the Master Plan Alignment of the ICC, we are opposed to all alignments. We agree that while congestion is a problem, the proposed Intercounty Connector is not a solution. We are vehemently opposed to Corridor 1 which is commonly referred to as the Master Plan Alignment. The Master Plan Alignment would cross the Northwest Branch three times and travel almost a mile in the streambed, resulting in the loss of 31 acres of floodplain.

Even without the ICC, this floodplain is often flooded to capacity during heavy rains. We have documented photographs of flooding in this area from 1991 to 2004. The photographs show that the floodwaters go out to the limits of the 100 year floodplain on both the north and south sides of Bonifant Road. To the best of our knowledge, no study has been conducted to show the effects of the Master Plan Alignment on surrounding areas due to the degradation of such a large floodplain.

The Northwest Branch contains highly erodeable soils. We are concerned that any disturbance to this sensitive stream valley area, including building the ICC using end-on-construction (or any construction technique), would further exacerbate the problem of flooding.

Additionally, building the Master Plan Alignment would cause the further concentration of water to be dumped into the Northwest Branch tributaries of the Anacostia River due to the impervious nature of the road surfaces. As previously indicated, this alignment crosses the Northwest Branch at three locations, and runs extensively through the park, floodplain and wetlands before moving through private homes and businesses.

The Northwest Branch is a place of quiet and green solitude for our community and it is also the source and life of the Chesapeake Bay.

In closing, it is sincerely requested that you consider very carefully our concerns as expressed here before either taking or supporting any action directed at the construction of the ICC along the Master Plan Alignment.

**Bruce W. Dunkins, Chairman
Legislative & Zoning Committee
Stonegate Citizens Association
15204 Middlegate Road
Silver Spring, Maryland 20905**

Photographs attached

Flooding in Northwest Branch Park - March 3, 1997

South of Bonifant Road

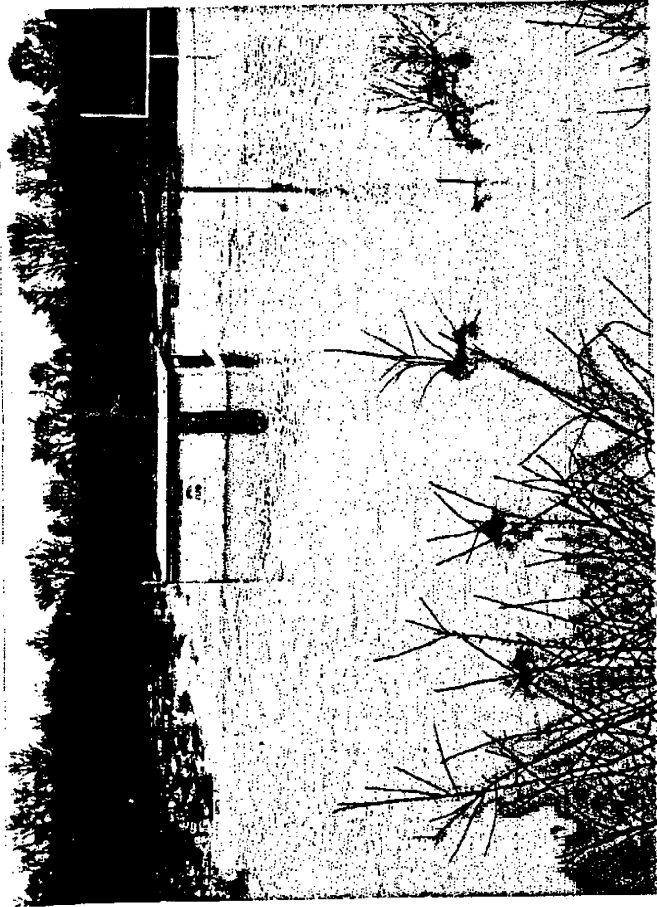
Master Plan Alignment of the Intercounty Connector



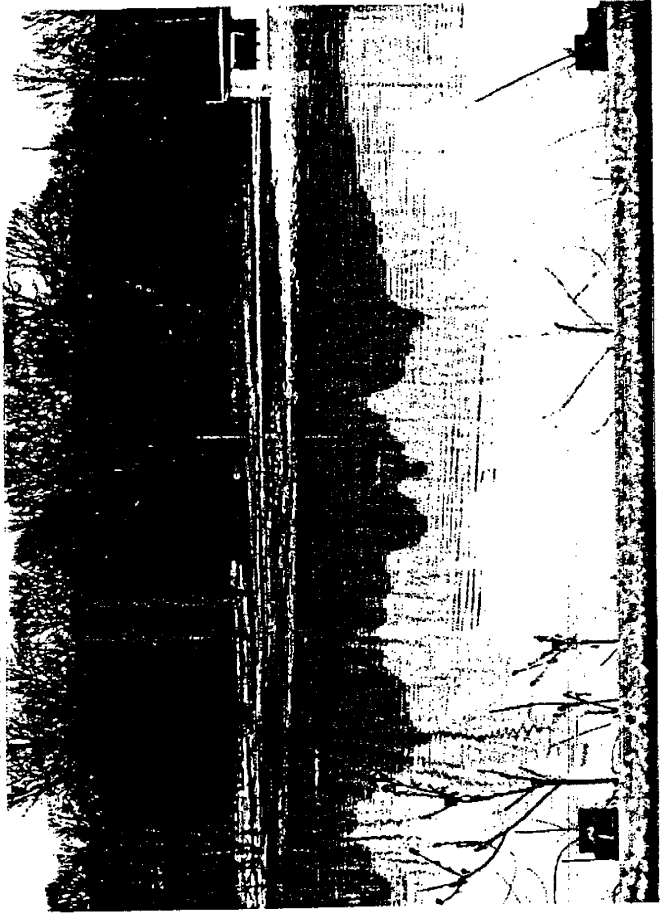
Flooding in Northwest Branch Park

March 23, 1991

North of Bonifant Road



North of Bonifant Road



South of Bonifant Road



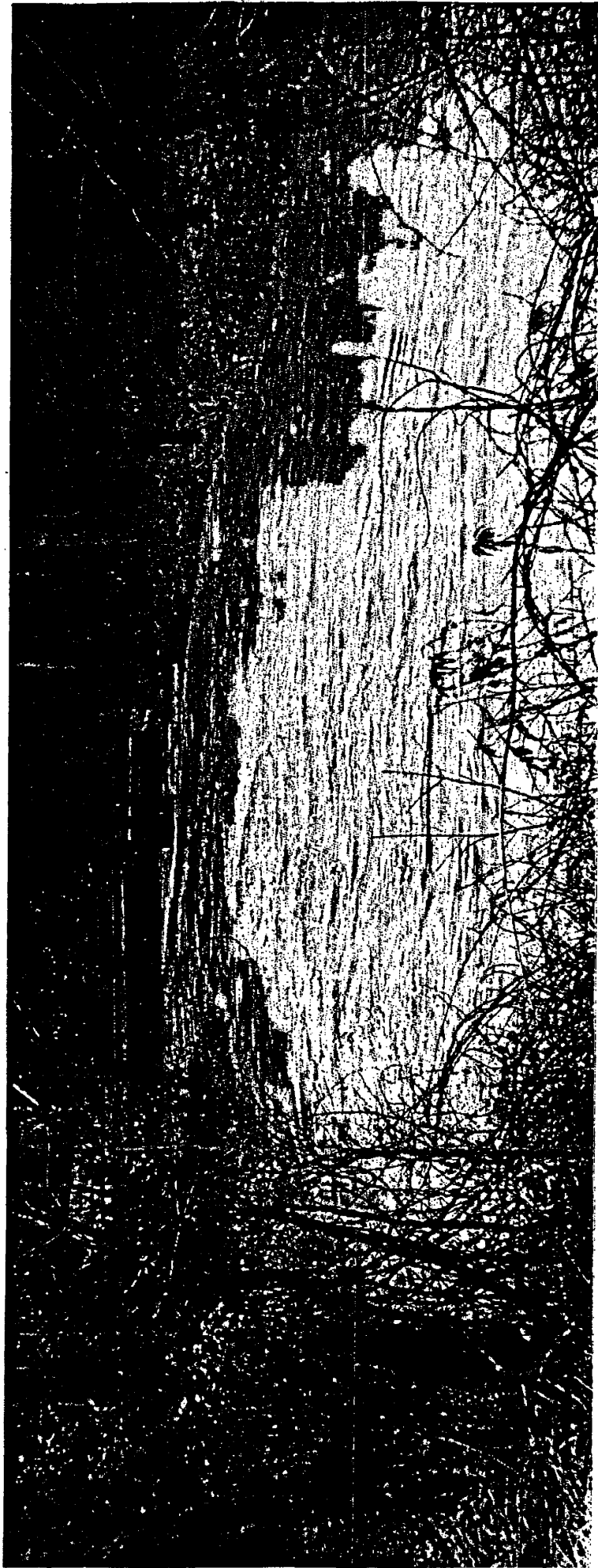
South of Bonifant Road



Northwest Branch - South of Bonifant Rd.

Flooding

January 28, 1998



14800 Pebblestone Drive
Silver Spring, MD 20905
January 23, 2005

Mr. Derrick P. Berlage, Chairman
Montgomery County Planning Board
8787 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20910

RECEIVED
0118
JAN 25 2005

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN
THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL
PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

Dear Derrick,

It was great to see you at the Precinct's party on Sunday.

Enclosed is the original photograph that appeared in the May 9, 1991 Express newspaper & a copy of the article.

I was concerned and disappointed to see that the Planning Board supports the Master Plan Alignment (corridor 1) in the January 13, 2005 Briefing (#5) on the ICC. It would severely impact the Northwest Branch, as well as Rock Creek and the Paint Branch. I am also opposed to the Northern Alignment for the same reasons.

II

January 23, 2005 letter to Derick P. Berlage, continued:

Also enclosed is a copy of testimony delivered by Bruce Dunkin, Chairman of the Legislation & Zoning Committee of the Stonegate Citizens Association.

Attached to his testimony are three of sixteen photographs showing flooding in the Northwest Branch.

Please advise me if you would like me to make all of the photographs documenting flooding in the Northwest Branch available to you. 301-384-8071.

The Montgomery County Planning Board Commissioners are not being good stewards of our natural resources by supporting an ICC on any alignment.

Please make this material available to the appropriate members of your staff.

Thank you for your attention and for helping us in the past.

Sincerely,

Lois Sherman

The Silver Spring Express

Volume XII, Number 13

Thursday, May 9, 1991

(301) 258-7434

ICC backers tour wetlands

by Vince Morris
Express Staff Writer

County Council members and a handful of state legislators laced up their duck boots Saturday to walk among the flora and fauna of greater Colesville.

The occasion was a walking tour of the proposed Inter-County Connector, a 16-mile roadway that public officials claim will ease traffic congestion along Route 29 and the Beltway. The ICC, planned as a four-lane divided highway, would connect Route 1 in Prince George's County to I-270 in Montgomery County.

However, naturalists warn that the road will do permanent damage to the ecosystem, including a variety of brown trout that naturalists say is rare in the county and the state.

And homeowners say noise generated by eight lanes of traffic will intrude upon their homes. In addition, they say public officials should encourage use of mass transportation, rather than follow through with construction of a road conceived more than two decades ago.

But while the tour offered politicians a pleasant and instructive view on the debate they've waged many times before, most were unwilling to say their opinion had changed.



Council member Derick Berlage examines a stream in ICC pathway. Photo courtesy Lois Sherman.

"We definitely need to look at a new environmental impact study," said Planning Board Chairman Gus Bauman, an ardent supporter of the roadway. Bauman said he was pleased to visit the site, but repeated his statement that existing traffic needs make the ICC all but essential.

The state is currently evaluating different alignments for the road, in part because of concern by federal officials that the road would damage sensitive wetland area. That evaluation is not expected immediately.

The most recent cost estimates peg expenses for the road at anywhere from \$400 million to \$600 million, depending on the amount of environmental mitigation involved. Costs could escalate if the design includes raised roadways.

According to walking tour organizer Lois Sherman, the idea for the event originated with former county council member Neal Potter, who was absent from the morning jaunt. His new transportation director, Graham Norton, served as his emissary.

Sherman said Potter, who supports building the road, suggested a walking tour in September as a way of giving politicians a first-hand glimpse of the greenery involved.

"I would have to leave before I could live here" if they begin tearing down trees to build the ICC, said Sherman, who lives near the route and co-chairs a group called the Mid-Intercounty Connector Citizens Committee.

Perhaps the most interesting portion of the tour came when Charlie Cougeon, a fishery specialist with the state natural resources department, showed off his brown trout.

Cougeon caught the fish using an electronic stun rod, which is harm-

less to the fish but allows humans to catch fish and inspect them at close range. Eager council members crowded around the tank, where crawfish and trout swam about, oblivious to the attention they were

getting.

The ICC as currently planned would cut through area inhabited by fox, deer, beavers and mink, according to environmentalists.