

The Current

Stormwater Management News

April, 2023



In This Issue

Stormwater Capacity Improvements
Flood Resilient Arlington

Protecting Water Quality

The County's [comprehensive stormwater management program](#) includes projects and programs focused on maintaining and upgrading the stormwater system, reducing pollution from stormwater runoff, mitigating impacts from development, floodplain administration and meeting regulatory requirements for the County's stormwater and environmental regulations.

Stormwater Investments in the Stormwater FY23-32 Capital Improvement program total \$331 million over this ten-year CIP. This is a \$298 million increase over the last ten-year CIP. Approximately 2/3 of the funding is for stormwater capacity improvements and 1/3 for maintenance capital and water quality projects.

Stormwater Capacity Improvements

Flood Resilient Arlington



The [stormwater vault at Cardinal Elementary school](#) - one of the [largest vaults in the mid-Atlantic](#) - will be completed in May, 2023. This vault will help to reduce flood risk in Torreyson Run and Westover neighborhood. Design work for other critical watersheds is underway.

The County has completed [dredging and repairs of the Four Mile Run flood channel](#) to maintain capacity and reduce flood risk. This maintenance work reduces flood risk in neighborhoods near Four Mile Run in S. Arlington.



The **Risk Assessment and Management Plan (RAMP)** is on schedule to be completed in 2023. This plan includes updated climate projections, mapping of critical assets and facilities, and modeling of current and future flood patterns (with factors for climate change). It also includes vulnerability and risk assessments.

[FEMA Floodplain Map Update](#) - the County's Floodplain Administrator continues intensive work with FEMA to ensure the floodplain maps and ordinance are updated in an equitable and technically-accurate manner. The new maps are expected to become effective in Fall, 2023.

Staff completed a [stormwater management zoning study](#) to recommend amendments to existing zoning standards to enable greater flexibility in the siting and construction of public stormwater management facilities. The amendments were completed in March, 2023.

Protecting Water Quality

The [Ballston Pond project](#) will be completed in June, 2023. The pond will help the County achieve water quality regulations and reduces peak flows in Lubber Run by 30%.

The [Sparrow Pond project](#) will start construction in Fall, 2023. The project goal is to restore the pond to the original depth by removing sediment, add a sediment collection forebay to allow easier maintenance and sediment removal, maximize water quality benefits, and restore wildlife habitat.



Design continues on the [Gulf Branch Stream Resiliency project](#). This project will create a stable stream channel to accommodate storm flows, protect vulnerable exposed infrastructure in the stream channel, reduce sediment erosion, and enhance stream habitat (photo at right).

The County continues adding stormwater facilities, or [green streets](#), to locations with no pre-existing stormwater treatment. These “green street” facilities slow down and store water from smaller rain events and filter and remove pollutants from the runoff. Four green streets in the Gulf Branch neighborhood are in design in conjunction with the Gulf Branch stream resiliency project.



The County’s [Chesapeake Bay Preservation Plan](#) was recently updated to reflect current conditions and include up-to-date policies and procedures designed to address the County’s regulatory Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act requirements.



The County [increased stormwater management requirements for single family home projects](#) in 2021, and the first projects are now completing construction. The initiative focuses on managing more water during heavy rainfall to protect downhill properties, along with the storm drain system and local streams. Elements of the new program include a detention tanks, restoring soil permeability after construction, and stormwater credits for trees.

There are now more than [6000 private stormwater facilities in the County](#). These facilities are installed as part of regulated construction projects and all owners—from single family homes to high-rise apartments to commercial office buildings— must certify they are maintained and inspected regularly.

Commercial pollution “hot spot” inspections are also getting underway this spring, a requirement of Arlington’s stormwater permit and a key element of the County’s [Prevent Pollution](#) programs. These inspections cover approximately 150 commercial properties to assess site conditions and address potential sources of pollution.



Links

<https://www.arlingtonva.us/Flooding>

<https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Programs/Sustainability-and-Environment/Stormwater>