

Gulf Branch Stream Resilience Project Summer 2022 Online Feedback Form Responses

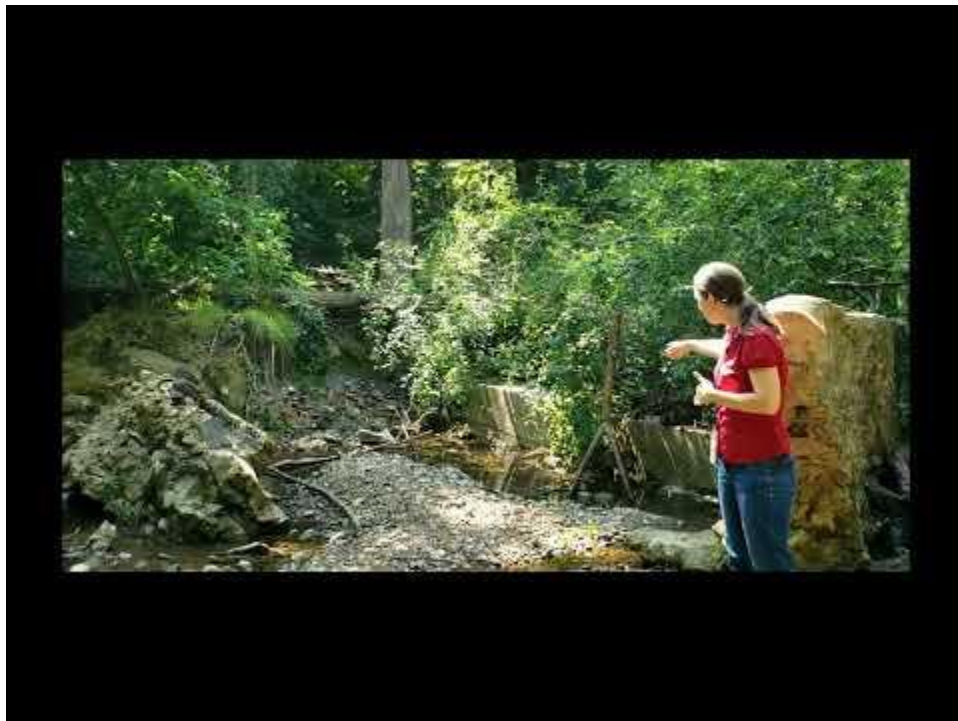
In summer 2022, we received online feedback form responses on the Gulf Branch Stream Resilience project – see below for the content of the form and the responses that were shared from community members.

Thanks for your interest in Gulf Branch. The goals of the Gulf Branch stream project are to:

- **Create a stable stream channel** to accommodate storm flows, address active erosion and create overall resiliency to climate change
- **Repair and protect vulnerable exposed infrastructure** and prevent sewage releases to the stream and repeat emergency repairs
- **Reduce excess sediment and nutrients** being transported downstream to help protect Potomac River and Chesapeake Bay and meet regulatory requirements
- **Enhance habitat and reduce impact to existing high-quality habitat**
- **Increase public safety and access to stream** for recreational purposes (also supports biophilic goals)

Please review the presentation slide deck, virtual stream walk (see video below), and/or recording from the community meeting held on June 22, 2022. Use this form to provide your feedback on the approach and decision points included.

- [Presentation slide deck](#)
- [Community meeting recording](#)



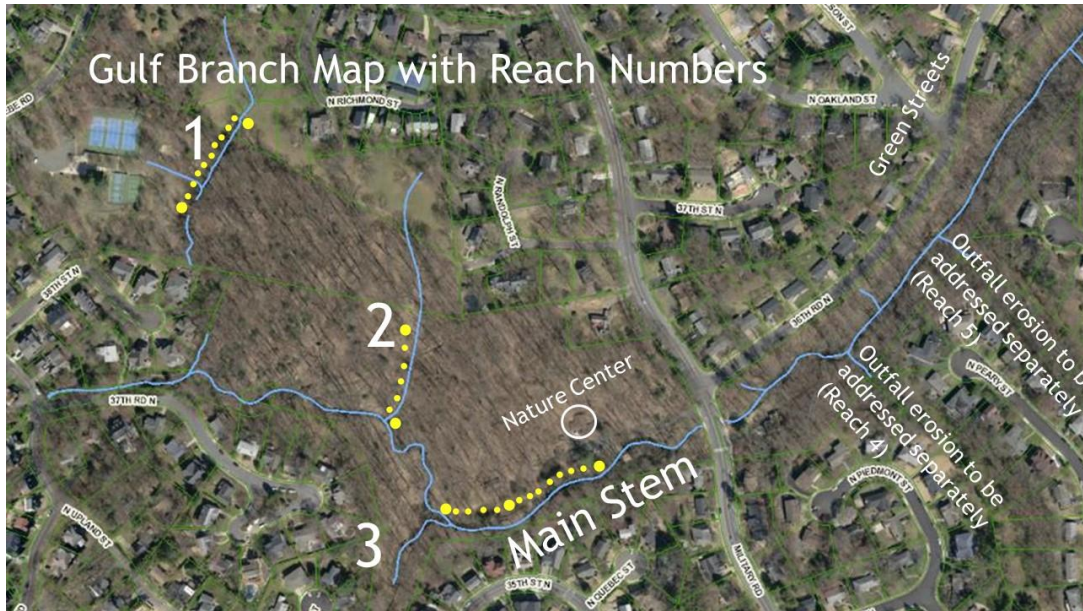
[Please note that the project area map has been included on each of the question pages as a reference.]



1. Scope Change. The stream resiliency project will be focused on the areas upstream of Military Road and will not include the area downstream of Military Rd or reach 4 and reach 5 past the pump station. This is a change of scope to reduce project impacts and limit budgetary pressure, due to the lower risks of inaction there. More information about this decision is included in the materials linked above. Please share any thoughts or considerations you have about the change in scope.

Community Feedback:

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| My concern is for access to the Nature Center and BGOP forge behind the pond. |
| The reasoning make sense to me. |
| The problem is that the County is actively supporting the construction of homes that cover the lots and create little permeable ground. This is a County created problem that did not used to be this severe and is only going to get worse by the County support of builders. |
| I walk through this area a lot. This part of the stream gets much more usage. It makes sense to do this part first. |
| I think the rationale for this decision makes sense (greatest benefit for the investment) |
| I think this is the right decision at this time. |
| I think it is unfortunate that this has been removed and hopefully it will be undertaken in the not-too-distant future. |
| At the top of this page it says: "My progress 0%." I think that's a good summary of your "progress" over the past three years. Nothing downstream of Military Rd., where it arguably needs it most? Shame! |
| We are very disappointed that you were limiting the scope of this project to exclude downstream of Militart Road. We walk that on the upstream part almost every day and find the damage to the downstream part significant and increasing almost weekly in numbers and severity. In fact by the time you take on this project, let a long conclude it, it may be too late to repair any of the damage already done. We are very unhappy with the speed and scope. |
| fine |
| I think the change in scope makes sense and provides the greatest benefit for the investment. |
| What is the cost of the proposed project, and how much will Arlington taxpayers be billed for it? |
| The entire project should be reconsidered to minimize impacts along the entire length |



2. Gulf Branch main stem near the Nature Center. This stream section includes the exposed sanitary sewer manhole and adjacent pipes, the stream sections near the nature center, along the driveway down to the Military Road culvert by the pump station. Please share any thoughts or considerations about this stream section and the proposed approach.

Community Feedback:

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| If work can be done while retaining access to the parking lot and paths, great. |
| The plan looks good for this area. |
| Sounds good to me. I'm glad staff will be getting better access to the stream near the Nature Center. |
| Maintaining a healthy stream and nature center should be important criteria for any project. This historical area has provided education and enjoyment for many decades. |
| I like the changes made to the original plan. I think it makes sense to create a flood plain here and to use it as a staging area for the work in this area |
| Clearly needs work. Will you build walls or stack boulders to make the stream narrower and backfill behind them? Don't do what was done in recently completed Zachary Taylor Park where everything was widened with long sloping sides to stream - I do not think you have the room in Gulf Branch. |
| fine but should be covered by Parks and Rec not DES as it's a park facility |
| I like the idea of creating a flood plain that can be used as a staging area near where the work needs to be done. |
| Exposed sanitary sewer manholes and adjacent pipes can be protected without needing to do the "restoration" of the entire stream. This is a primarily a storm water project meant to meet the Chesapeake Bay pollutant reduction requirements at the lowest price possible. The previous "restorations" have not been resilient and do not have any data showing that the reductions in pollutants promised were achieved. This is a colossal waste of taxpayers money that unnecessarily destroys the last vestiges of our natural environment. |



3. Gulf Branch and Reach Three. This area includes the confluence of the Gulf Branch main stem and the small tributary off of Broyhill Forest Park (reach 3). There are many exposed sanitary sewer pipes and advancing erosion along the stream banks. Please share any thoughts or considerations about this stream section and the proposed approach.

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| none |
| The plan looks good for this area. |
| Sounds fine from what I can tell. |
| Why are there exposed sanitary sewer pipes?? Isn't this a building/zoning ordinance issue? |
| I think it's important to ensure that any work done in Broyhill Forest Park creates as little disruption as possible to the Park itself. I realize it will need to be used as a staging ground though think it's important to do whatever it takes to minimize the number of months the park is inaccessible to residents (for example ideally the work would be done over the winter months when it is used less). I also think it is important to restore Broyhill Forest Park to at least the state it was before, including replanting/reseeding I will note there are several eroding areas in the park from stormwater runoff and numerous old trees that have recently died, so possibly this restoration effort could be extended to address these areas as well |
| My greatest concerns about the impact on Broyhill Forest Park and its use as a staging area for this project. The project timeline and plan must be designed to limit the impact on the park and the surrounding community. I am also concerned about the use of N. Utah St. as a staging/parking area for the contractors — it is a narrow and quiet cul-de-sac with dozens of kids living and playing here all the time and you need to give a lot of thought to how all this work is going to impact the immediate community. I don't feel that the use of the park as a staging area for equipment should just extend to the use of the immediate residential streets surrounding the park as the overflow parking for all the contractors and other equipment. |
| narrow the sections, put in rocks on sides (there are a lot of rock toward sections 2&3 in the stream reuse them. Bust up the poured concrete dams. Try to salvage the very old stone wall section and make it a hilite. Use the stilling basin technique with little water fall like on Windy Run or Zachary Taylor Make places where kids can wade in water on hot days |
| minimal problems. costs should be covered by homeowners who have developed the land on and near the water not the county |
| I understand that work needs to be done in this area and that using Broyhill Forest Park as a staging area makes sense. However, I hope every the county can do everything possible to minimize the disruption since residents uses this park a lot. For example, I would suggest conducting the work during the winter if possible since there are less children using the park during the colder months. |
| Can use less invasive methods including the wood-based methods presented to the County previously by John Field. the County can also reduce the footprint by requiring the smaller construction equipment widely available. |



4. Reach Two. The scope was expanded to include more of this stream section in response to community comment to address active erosion before it worsens. Please share any thoughts or considerations about this stream section and the proposed approach.

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| none |
| Please include the removal of the large poplar now leaning over the stream behind 4311 37th Rd N. Every storm increases the erosion of the bank under the tree and exposes more of its roots. Much of the tree is dead, and the upper 3/4ths of the tree could be removed, leaving the lower trunk and roots to help anchor the stream wall until they fully decompose. Leaving the whole tree makes it more likely that it will significantly impact the stream bank when the tree falls. |
| I like the idea of preventative mediation and I commend expanding the project here |
| That area has been a problem for decades. It's great to hear that you are going to address it. |
| I think the plan here makes sense |
| Yes that eroded valley is loaded with dead trees – that might be a place where you can flatten the water the path using rocks. It appears to me that it gets bad in a wet storm but generally not much water but always muddy were it crosses the trail. make it a real path and bridge the trail over a conduit into the main stream |
| This bed is dry most of the year and doesn't cause problems. more of an overflow bed |
| No further comments - makes sense |
| Same as above. You've identified the damage caused by decades of neglect and the rapid addition of impermeable surfaces. Data shows that your methods haven't worked in the past and will be even less likely to help in the future as storms intensify and building continues without a new approach. |



5. Reach One. This area includes the stream section near the Glebe Park tennis courts. There is active erosion deepening and widening the channel, including around the pedestrian bridge. Please share any thoughts or considerations about this stream section and the proposed approach.

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| none |
| The plan looks good. |
| This is a dangerous area I'm glad is included. |
| I think the plan here makes sense |
| Yes looks pretty bad with erosion. I walk here quite often with dog. I have never seen the rocky part of the stream coming from Richmond St fields wet. But the area from behind the swings to the bridge is really erodes - I wonder where the water comes from. Put a small step bridge over the rocky stream area; wall the eroded whereit strats to get bad and put drains toward the park where water flows with a conduit to the stream. Use new walls to should the main bridge up that is below the tennis courts |
| yes, this is main problem area and should be resolved. high traffic and higher likelihood of an accident or major issue in the future. concerns around aesthetics and solution not becoming a block of concrete in the middle of the park |
| No further comments - makes sense |
| Same answers. Do the minimum and preserve as much untouched areas as possible. the threat to the pedestrian bridge is exaggerated and could be handled with simpler designs and construction. |

6. General Comment. Please share any overall thoughts, comments, or questions.

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| <p>The Blacksmiths Guild of the Potomac operates weekly classes in addition to having an open forge for members to work in, and the public to engage in. We'd like to know if there will be any impact to our operations when stream work gets underway.</p> |
| <p>This is the safest route from military Rd to Jamestown elementary school kids need to ride bikes in safe places. 35 is not safe, Dittmar is not safe, Please make a path like Zackery Taylor park for kids and bikes along Gulf Branch</p> |
| <p>I appreciate the work that has gone in and look forward to the project beginning and completion.</p> |
| <p>go vegan. Animal ag is the #1 cause of Co2.</p> |
| <p>I think Arlington County has done a comprehensive job of research, analysis, and community outreach on this project and that we should move forward quickly before erosion worsens further.</p> |
| <p>Gulf Branch was my favorite to walk in with kids and dogs - but it has become run down. It has that neglected look and I am happy to see you taking action.</p> |
| <p>If the final result looks anything like the work done at Zachary Taylor/Donaldson Run, then I think this is a great project! The work done there is beautiful, sensitively designed, the plantings are lovely (though I wish they had been identified for visitors) and frogs have even appeared in several places. As unfortunate as the tree removal was, the results are wonderful and worth the disruption. Water looks clear--no sediment even after a heavy rain.</p> |
| <p>Again, it's time to move on this. Too much damage has occurred since this proposal was first initiated. It's time to put up or shut up. And it's also time to repair the whole watershed not just a part of it.</p> |
| <p>reach 1 is main concern. area around nature center should fall to parks department or state</p> |
| <p>As a Gulf Branch neighbor, we hope the county understands how important it is to ensure that any work done in Broyhill Forest Park creates as little disruption as possible to the park itself. We understand that it will need to be used as a staging ground, but as so many neighbors use this park with Kids and Pets, we hope you will do whatever it takes to minimize the number of months the park is inaccessible to residents (it would be ideal if work could be done over the winter months when it is used less). I also think it is important to restore Broyhill Forest Park to at least the state it was before, including replanting/reseeding, if not also make improvements within the park. I will note there are several eroding areas in the park from stormwater runoff and numerous old trees that have recently died, so possibly this restoration effort could be extended to address these areas as well.</p> |
| <p>No further comments</p> |
| <p>I'd like to know how much has been spent thus far on the project, and how much is forecast to be spent. I'd also like to know how this will alleviate current erosion and pollution problems if the upstream sources are not curtailed or eliminated.</p> |
| <p>I think the modifications look good. What I think has been missing in the goals for the whole project has been a stated priority concerning the parks themselves. You mention recreation, but what about an explicit statement about the need to retain Arlington park facilities, such as trails and bridges?</p> |
| <p>The County should available stabilization methods that cost less. The capital should instead be committed to repairing/enhancing the Nature Center Buildings and exhibits. Moneys for operations should include restaffing the Center to its previous levels or higher.</p> |

[Emails have not been included for privacy purposes.]

Demographic Information

What gender do you most identify with?

Male: 9, Female: 8; Prefer not to answer: 1

Which of the following describe your race or ethnicity? Select all that apply.

White: 14, Hispanic or Latino: 1, Prefer not to respond: 2

What zip code do you live in?

22207: 16, 22310: 1

Which of the following best describes your current home?

Single family detached house: 17, Townhouse or duplex: 1

Have you attended an Arlington County public meeting in the last year?

Yes: 9, No: 9