

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

NFWF/Legacy Grant Project ID: 0603.10.024584

Chesapeake Bay Small Watershed Grants 2010 - Submit Final Programmatic Report (Activities)

Grantee Organization: County of Loudoun, Virginia

Project Title: Big Spring Branch Watershed Restoration (VA)

Project Period 02/01/2010 - 06/30/2014
Award Amount \$80,000.00
Matching Contributions \$118,000.00
Project Location Description (from Proposal) The Big Spring Branch watershed lies on the northern border of Leesburg, Virginia and Loudoun County, Virginia. The stream flows eastward from its headwaters to its confluence with the Potomac River.

Project Summary (from Proposal) Educate and engage the local community to restore the Big Spring Branch watershed in Loudoun County, Virginia. Project will conduct outreach to schools and landowners, restore 600 linear feet of stream and 11.5 acres of riparian buffer, create a 1.1-acre wetland, perform downspout disconnections, and monitor changes in water quality.

Summary of Accomplishments Loudoun County was assisted by approximately 640 volunteers as the Big Spring Restoration Project completed nine specific tasks: (1) Tuscarora High School stream restoration featuring: created wetlands, stream bank stabilization, riparian buffer plantings and restored fish passage, (2) creation of an outdoor classroom at Tuscarora High School, (3) conversion of an abandoned farm pond into a wetland, (4) creation of a demonstration rain garden, (5) expansion and maintenance of the Ida Lee riparian buffer tree planting, (6) repair and enhancement of the Francis Hazel Reid Elementary School tree buffer/water quality area, (7) creation of a demonstration native plant meadow, (8) water quantity and quality monitoring, and (9) education and outreach to the public schools and surrounding community. The outcomes resulting included: (1) long-term restoration of a stream segment, (2) construction of an outdoor classroom used by students, (3) a new wetland that filters water from two stream tributaries, (4) a highly visible rain garden with an interpretative sign, (5) an improved and expanded riparian buffer resulting from the planting of 250 4'-6' trees, (6) an improved tree buffer/water quality area, (7) a highly visible native meadow garden with an interpretative sign to inform and demonstrate alternative native landscaping techniques, (8) an improved understanding of the water quality, and (9) a greater understanding by the public about ways to improve stream water quality.

Lessons Learned Overall the Big Spring Branch Watershed Restoration Project received good cooperation and support from the community. In particular, working with the three schools in the watershed proved to be the most effective means of reaching the community and soliciting community support. All the projects on school property had the added benefit of engaging the student population in the field work. Several parents with children attending the schools were very helpful and supportive. In addition, the fact that many of the projects were installed on public property will mean that the demonstration projects and interpretive signage will be visible and accessible to the public for years to come.

Conservation Activities	Task 1 - Tuscarora High School stream restoration
Progress Measures	Other Activity Metric (Acres of riparian planting)
Value at Grant Completion	18.2
Conservation Activities	Task 1 - Tuscarora High School stream restoration
Progress Measures	Linear feet of streambank/shoreline stabilized
Value at Grant Completion	1917

Conservation Activities Progress Measures Value at Grant Completion	Task 1 - Tuscarora High School stream restoration Acres of wetland habitat improved 1.1
Conservation Activities Progress Measures Value at Grant Completion	Task 3 - Inline wetland created. Acres of wetland habitat improved 3.5
Conservation Activities Progress Measures Value at Grant Completion	Task 5 - Repair & maintenance of riparian planting Other Activity Metric (Acres of riparian planting.) 8
Conservation Activities Progress Measures Value at Grant Completion	Task 6 - Repair and enhancement of water quality area Other Activity Metric (Acres of riparian planting) 5
Conservation Activities Progress Measures Value at Grant Completion	Task 2 - Nature trail and living classroom # of participants/volunteers in project 190
Conservation Activities Progress Measures Value at Grant Completion	Task 10 - Education and Outreach # of participants/volunteers in project 640
Conservation Activities Progress Measures Value at Grant Completion	Task 9 - Water monitoring Other Activity Metric (# of measurements) 450
Conservation Activities Progress Measures Value at Grant Completion	Task 2 - Nature trail and living classroom Linear feet of riparian buffer restored with at least a 35-foot buffer 1300
Conservation Activities Progress Measures Value at Grant Completion	Task 2 - Nature trail and living classroom Other Activity Metric (Acres of riparian planting) 3
Conservation Activities Progress Measures Value at Grant Completion	Task 2 - Nature trail and living classroom Other Activity Metric (Interpretive signs) 5
Conservation Activities Progress Measures Value at Grant Completion	Task 3 - Inline wetland created. Other Activity Metric (Planted 78 trees and 414 wetland shrubs and emergent plants) 1
Conservation Activities Progress Measures Value at Grant Completion	Task 3 - Inline wetland created. Acres treated by stormwater BMPs 420
Conservation Activities Progress Measures Value at Grant Completion	Task 6 - Repair and enhancement of water quality area % reduction in invasive species cover 75
Conservation Activities Progress Measures Value at Grant Completion	Task 6 - Repair and enhancement of water quality area Acres treated by stormwater BMPs 5
Conservation Activities Progress Measures Value at Grant Completion	Task 6 - Repair and enhancement of water quality area Linear feet of riparian buffer restored with at least a 35-foot buffer 450
Conservation Activities Progress Measures Value at Grant Completion	Task 5 - Repair & maintenance of riparian planting # of participants/volunteers in project 140
Conservation Activities Progress Measures Value at Grant Completion	Task 5 - Repair & maintenance of riparian planting Other Activity Metric (Acres of riparian planting) 2.5
Conservation Activities Progress Measures Value at Grant Completion	Task 5 - Repair & maintenance of riparian planting Linear feet of livestock exclusion fencing installed with less than a 35-foot buffer 700
Conservation Activities Progress Measures Value at Grant Completion	Task 6 - Repair and enhancement of water quality area # of participants/volunteers in project 25

Conservation Activities	Task 7 - Raingarden planting
Progress Measures	# of participants/volunteers in project
Value at Grant Completion	30
Conservation Activities	Task 7 - Raingarden planting
Progress Measures	square feet of bioretention installed
Value at Grant Completion	550
Conservation Activities	Task 8 – Smarts Mill Middle School Demonstration Native Meadow
Progress Measures	# of participants/volunteers in project
Value at Grant Completion	225
Conservation Activities	Task 8 – Smarts Mill Middle School Demonstration Native Meadow
Progress Measures	square feet of bioretention installed
Value at Grant Completion	450



Loudoun County, Virginia

www.loudoun.gov

News Release

Office of Public Information

1 Harrison Street, SE, P.O. Box 7000, Mailstop #03, Leesburg, VA 20177-7000

703/777-0113 • Fax 703/771-5841

DRAFT

For Immediate Release

Contact: Scott Sandberg,
Department of Building & Development
571-258-3304

September 30, 2011

Volunteers Needed to Plant Trees at Ida Lee Park, Saturday, November 5, 2011

Volunteers of all ages are invited to participate on Saturday, November 5, 2011, to plant 200 trees along riparian areas of Ida Lee Park in Leesburg. Loudoun County, the Town of Leesburg and the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy have partnered to host the event which will begin at 9 am from the parking area below the A.V. Symington Aquatic Center. Volunteers are encouraged to bring a shovel and gloves.

The new trees will improve the quality of Big Spring Creek by filtering stormwater runoff before it reaches the creek. A forested stream buffer can improve stream water quality by removing sediment and contaminants, lowering stream temperatures and preventing stream bank erosion.

This project is funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency through the Chesapeake Bay Small Watershed Grants program, which is administered through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. The grant funding is managed by the Loudoun County Water Resources Team within the Department of Building and Development.

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Loudoun awarded EPA grant

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Thursday, Dec. 30, 2010 by Staff reports | 0 comments | [Email this story](#)



Loudoun County plans to use the grant money to improve watershed conditions in Big Spring Branch. Projects will include planting trees along the stream's edge to help cool the water and filter stormwater. (Photo by Scott Sandberg)

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- Thursday, Oct. 2
Whooping cough confirmed in Eagle Ridge Middle School
- Tuesday, Sep. 30
Supervisors grant property tax relief for two GOP-friendly groups
- Tuesday, Sep. 30
Discriminatory graffiti targets Loudoun Hindus
- Sunday, Sep. 28
'The Daily Show' airs controversial Redskins segment
- Wednesday, Oct. 1
UPDATED: Loudoun County hires new county attorney



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Loudoun County this week was awarded an \$80,000 grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The money, administered through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation as part of the Chesapeake Bay Small Watershed Grants program, will go toward restoring the Big Spring Branch watershed, north of downtown Leesburg.

Improvements to the watershed will include planting trees in riparian areas, stream and pond restoration projects, and public education.

The project will be managed by the county's Water Resources Team within the Department of Building and Development.

The Chesapeake Bay Small Watershed Grants program provides grants to organizations and local governments working on a local level to protect and improve watersheds in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Since the program began 10 years ago, it has distributed more than \$27 million to more than 600 projects in the watershed.

[Government](#) / [Western Loudoun](#) / [Leesburg](#) /

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LOUDOUN

EXTRA

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2011

1C

Decision looms on water in Raspberry Falls

Supervisors have until May to decide between pipeline and treatment

BY CAITLIN GIBSON

After years of debate over water quality concerns in a community north of Leesburg, the Loud-

oun County Board of Supervisors must decide on a solution in the coming months.

At a meeting last week, the Loudoun Water Board of Directors voted to present two long-term options to supervisors and asked that county leaders decide by May how to proceed.

The possible solutions are the result of months-long studies released by Loudoun Water in Au-

gust and presented to supervisors last month. The studies examined two potential solutions for Raspberry Falls, including a long-term water treatment option and the possibility of installing a water pipeline extension from Leesburg north to the subdivision.

Raspberry Falls residents have complained about water quality for years. Because the subdivision is in a limestone geology area, its

wells are surrounded by rocky terrain that does not filter contaminants from surface water as effectively as sand or soil does. Bacteria and other contaminants can more easily make their way into the untreated groundwater through cracks and channels in the limestone.

Anecdotal accounts of illnesses among residents, including gastrointestinal problems and skin

rashes, led a number of families in Raspberry Falls to conclude that contaminated water was to blame. But David Goodfriend of the Virginia Department of Health reported to county officials that there were no conclusive cases in which residents were sickened by the subdivision's water supply.

WATER CONTINUED ON 3

The harvest season is also a time for planting



NICOLE HAMILTON

More than 100 volunteers, including Scouts, planted 200 trees, such as oaks, maples and poplars, along Big Spring Creek in Leesburg's Ida Lee Park on Nov. 5. The trees will improve water quality and provide a wildlife habitat.

Brooke Point hits its goal

Long wait is over as win at Broad Run puts Black-Hawks in final

BY PRESTON WILLIAMS

Since the end of last season, the Brooke Point football players have lived by one mantra: 11/25/11. As in, reach the Virginia AAA Northwest Region Division 5 championship scheduled for that date.

The Black-Hawks met that goal with a 47-27 victory Friday night at Broad Run in the region semifinals. Who's to quibble that the region final is Nov. 26 and that they were off by a day? Brooke Point is in the championship for the first time since 1996. Tacking on one day to a 15-year wait won't make much difference.

FOOTBALL CONTINUED ON 6

2 News in brief
A teenager is charged with DUI after a crash; the Toys for Tots campaign seeks donations.

3 Piedmont Stories
"Mr. Lovettsville" recalls growing up in the town, which turns 200 this year.

4 Fauquier calendar
Seasonal performances will include "Christmas in Music" and, of course, "The Nutcracker."

5 Loudoun calendar
Bundle up and get outdoors for a walk in a nature preserve or a birding expedition.

Plant A Tree . . . At Ida Lee



Date: Saturday, November 5, 2011

Time: 9:00 AM — 2:00 PM

Location: Ida Lee Park, Leesburg, VA

Parking Area Below A.V. Symington Aquatic Center

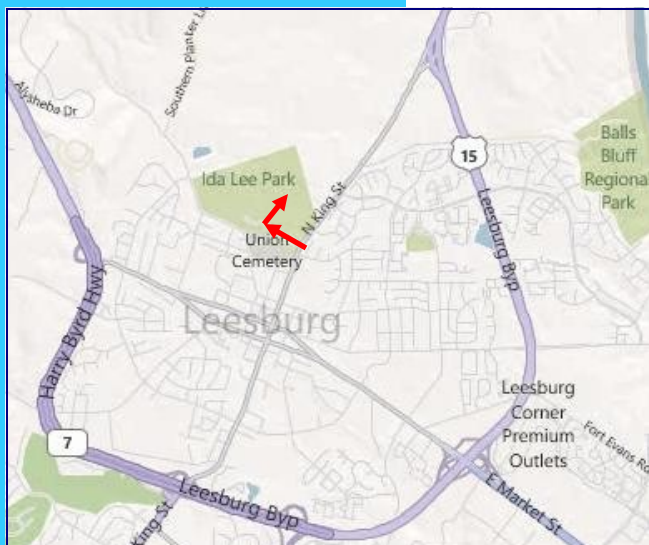
For More Information Contact:

Scott Sandberg
Water Resources Team
Dept of Building & Development
Loudoun County, VA
571-258-3304
scott.sandberg@loudoun.gov

Volunteers of all ages are needed to help plant 200 trees at Ida Lee Park on Saturday, November 5th. We'll meet in the parking area below the A.V. Symington Aquatic Center at 9 am for a short introduction to the project and to get organized.

The event will take place rain or shine! Please, bring gloves, shovels, and a wheelbarrow if you have them.

Everyone is welcome!



This project is a partnership between Loudoun County, the Town of Leesburg and the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy. Partial funding for this project is supplied by a Chesapeake Bay Small Watershed Grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

Plant A Tree . . . At Ida Lee



Date: Saturday, March 23, 2013
Time: 10:00 AM — 1:00 PM
Location: Ida Lee Park, Leesburg, VA
Parking Area Below A.V. Symington Aquatic Center

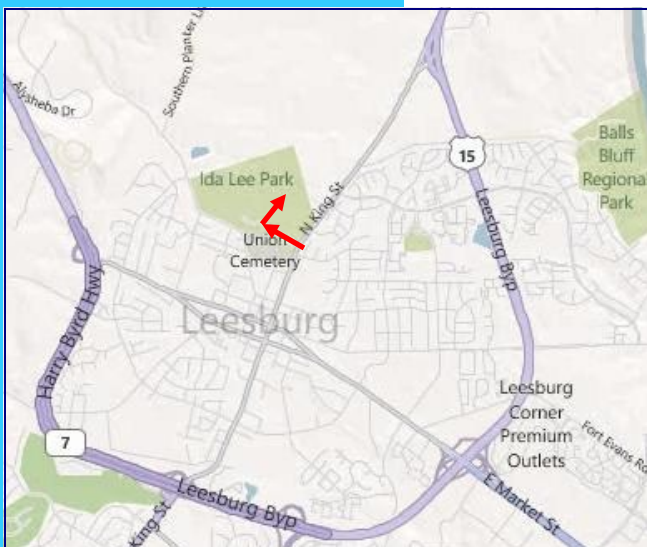
For More Information Contact:

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Water Resources Team
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Loudoun County, VA
571-258-3304
scott.sandberg@loudoun.gov

Volunteers of all ages are needed to help plant about 100 trees at Ida Lee Park on Saturday, March 23rd. We'll meet in the parking area below the A.V. Symington Aquatic Center at 10 am for a short introduction to the project and to get organized.

The event will take place rain or shine! Please, bring gloves, shovels, and a wheelbarrow if you have them.

Everyone is welcome!



This project is a partnership between Loudoun County, the Town of Leesburg and the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy. Partial funding for this project is supplied by a Chesapeake Bay Small Watershed Grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

Help us restore a Wetland



Date: Saturday, May 18, 2013

Time: 10:00 AM — 1:00 PM

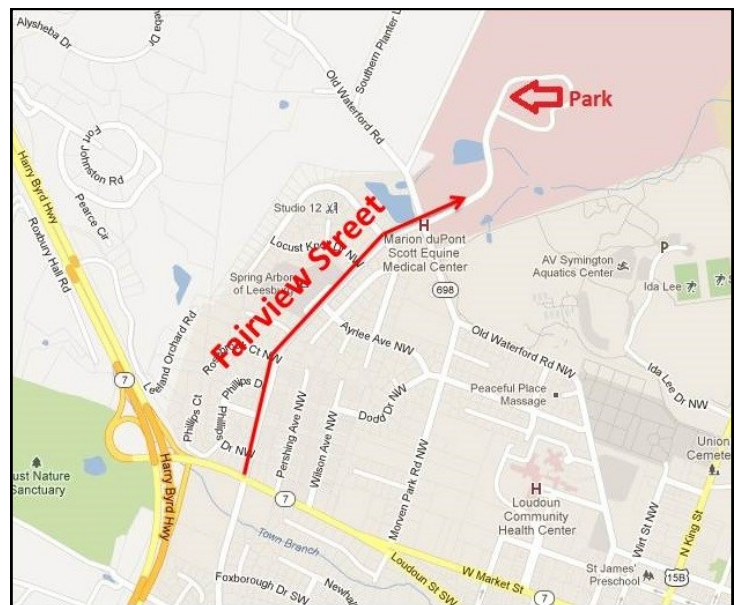
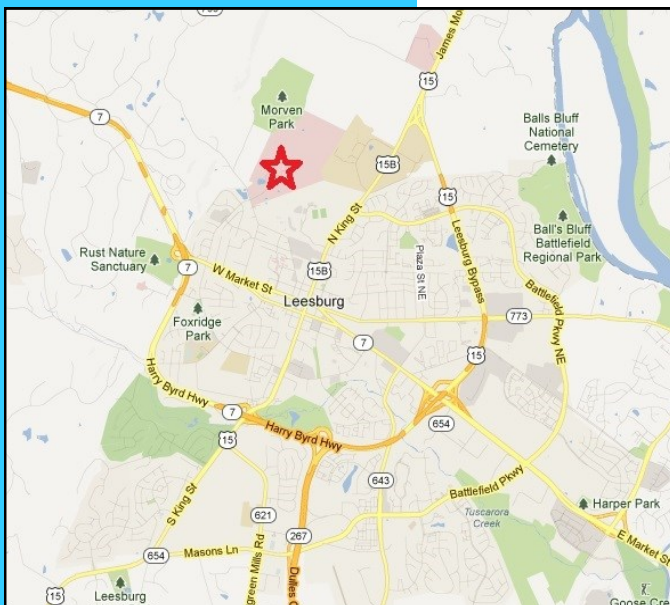
**Location: Marion duPont Scott Equine Medical Center
17690 Old Waterford Road, Leesburg, VA**

For More Information Contact:

Scott Sandberg
Water Resources Team
Dept of Building & Development
Loudoun County, VA
571-258-3304
scott.sandberg@loudoun.gov

Volunteers of all ages are needed to help install wetland shrubs and herbaceous plants at a newly restored wetland on the Marion duPont Scott Equine Medical Center campus on Saturday, May 18th.

Participants should meet in the parking area of the main office of the medical center at 10 am for a brief discussion of the project by a wetland ecologist. Most of the planting will be in the water so please bring boots or shoes that can get wet. Gloves and shovels are also suggested.



This project is a partnership between Loudoun County and the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy. Partial funding for this project is supplied by a Chesapeake Bay Small Watershed Grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.







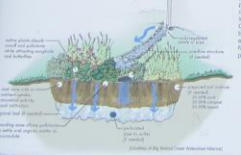




Tuscorora High School Rain Garden

What is a rain garden?
Rain gardens are depressions or basins that collect and absorb runoff from roofs, sidewalks, and driveways. Rain gardens create natural pathways for collecting and absorbing runoff and the vegetation helps filter out pollutants. Rain gardens are versatile features that can be installed in almost any outdoor space.

Residential Rain Garden



What are the benefits?

Rain gardens improve water quality by filtering out pollutants from rainwater runoff and they are aesthetically pleasing. They provide excellent stormwater and flood control by retaining sediment and holding water before it reaches streams and holding water before it reaches streams and holding water before it reaches streams. Rain gardens are also a great way to reduce runoff. Rain gardens help reduce pollutants from rainwater runoff.



What makes a rain garden different from a traditional garden?

Rain gardens are generally constructed on the downspout of a downspout and collect runoff from the lawn, roof and/or driveway. Once water collects in the rain garden, infiltration may take up to 48 hours after a major storm. Rain gardens maintain water saturation, therefore, no fertilizer is needed and after the first year maintenance is greatly reduced.

Curbside Rain Garden



Why is nonpoint runoff a problem?

Every time it rains, water runs off impervious surfaces such as roofs and driveways, collecting dirt, fertilizers, chemicals, oil, garbage and bacteria on the way. If this pollution water is not treated it can enter nearby streams and ponds, disrupting these aquatic systems. This type of water pollution is known as "nonpoint source" pollution, because it comes from many places like residential neighborhoods, roads, and farms as opposed to a single point like an industrial factory or sewage treatment plant. Nonpoint source pollution is considered the major remaining threat to water quality in the United States.

This sign was developed and printed as part of the 9th Grade Science Assessment project through the National Science Foundation of Science and Technology. It is part of the National Science Foundation's Science Education Resource Project (SERP). SERP is a national effort to improve science education for all students. SERP is supported by the National Science Foundation.















Reid Reporter



Frances Hazel Reid Elementary

800 N. King Street
Leesburg, VA 20176
Phone ~ 571-252-2050
Absentee Call-In ~ 571-252-2051
<http://cmsweb2.lcps.org/reid>



Principal ~ Brenda Jochems
Brenda.Jochems@lcp.s.org
Assistant Principal ~ Ellen McGraw
Ellen.McGraw@lcp.s.org
Administrative Intern ~ Jim Alexander
Jim.Alexander@lcp.s.org

Important Dates to Remember

Happy New Year

Tuesday, January 3rd

8:30 AM



Welcome Back - Classes Resume FHR Geography Bee

4th & 5th grade level winners will participate in school level competition. Winner will take a written exam to determine state level eligibility.

Wed., January 4th

Attention Parents - All Grades will follow Monday's schedule even though it is Wednesday — see page 4 for more information

Friday, January 5th

8:30 AM



FHR Spelling Bee

Fifth grade level winners will participate in school bee. Winner will represent FHR at LCPS Bee.

Spirit Day—wear exercise clothing in support of National Fitness Month

Monday, January 16th

Holiday — Martin Luther King Jr. Day
No School for Students & Staff



Thurs., January 19th

Attention Parents - All Grades will follow Monday's schedule even though it is Thursday — see page 4 for more information

Thurs., January 19th
8:30 AM

The Reid PTA
PTA Meeting — Cafeteria

Friday, January 20th

Grading Period Ends for Quarter 2

Monday, January 23rd

Moveable Student Holiday — Staff Planning/Conference/Record Keeping Day

Tuesday, January 24th
7:00 PM

Band & Orchestra Night for 5th grade students attending Smart's Smart's Mill. Snow date 1/26/12



Wed., January 25th

Fifth Grade Students visit middle schools Harper Park or Smart's Mill

Friday, January 27th

Chinese Program for Second Grade Students



Who Let the Dogs Out?

Who, Who?

We are very grateful to the following fathers for volunteering for a whole day in our school during the busy month of December:

Gil Pabon, Britt Mowery, David Hansen, Rui Garcia, Dave Delborrello, Hassane Bouhia, Chris Klein, Richard Colven, Tim Martino, Rick Welther, Price Williams, Rex Vogan, Sam Astavans, Doug Sweeney, Leon Vaughan, Brian Bernett, & John Paul (Watchdog Granddad). Thank you, DADS & GrandDADS of GREAT STUDENTS!

Emergency Dismissal Form

As winter approaches, it is essential that we have information on file as to where your child should go if school is dismissed early. As a reminder, when school closes early, there is no CASA, the afterschool program here in the cafeteria. **An Early Release Emergency Information Form is attached on page 6. If changes are needed, please complete and place in your child's blue communication folder.**

School Hours

7:30 am - 2:35 pm

Students not in their classrooms by the time the school bell rings at 7:50 am will be marked **TARDY**.

Kindergarten Hours

AM 7:30-10:50 am

PM 11:30 am - 2:35 pm

Diversity Means..... PTA 2011-2012 Reflections Winners Announced for FHR

"Diversity not only assumes that everyone is different, but also recognizes that those differences add value. Those differences are your community's assets."

-National PTA Membership Guide

Each year, the PTA Reflections Program challenges students to create art inspired by a specific theme. Themes are selected from hundreds of ideas submitted by students to the PTA Reflections Program Theme Search. The theme for 2011-2012 is "Diversity Means..."

Grade Divisions: Primary: Preschool-Grade 2 and Intermediate: Grades 3-5.

FHR Winners in each category:

- **Dance Choreography** ~ no entries
- **Film Production** ~ no entries
- **Literature** ~ **FHR Winner: Amelia**

Sheppard, Runner-up: Jordan Pettiford

- **Musical Composition** ~ **FHR Winner: Chloe Green**
- **Photography** ~ **FHR Winner: Bobby Cunningham**
- **Visual Arts** ~ **FHR Winner: Cokie Parker, Intermediate & Anastasia Stoltz, Primary & Runners-up: Morgan Begley, Intermediate & Matthew Melvin, Primary**

Honorable Mentions: Amber Kirk, Ashley Kirk, Aidan O'Malley, Holiday Price, Hollie Wilburn, Valerie Suryanto, & Jordan Nguyen

Congratulations to our school level winners. We wish each of you the best of luck at the state level.



Meal Prices

2011-2012

Elementary- Breakfast \$2.00

Reduced- \$0.30

Lunch \$3.00



The Reid Elementary administration and staff are dedicated to improving our strategies for increasing student achievement. A formal School Improvement Plan has been developed by staff, parents, and community members. The plan is reviewed and revised throughout the planning cycle according to the results being achieved. A copy of our school plan will be available in the school office and on our school website. You may also call us at 571-252-2050 to have a copy sent home with your child. Please let us know if you wish to participate in the development or monitoring of the School Improvement Plan. We welcome your input!

The Minority Student Achievement Advisory

Committee (MSAAC) works in partnership with Loudoun County Public Schools staff, parents, and community to further the academic, social, and cultural development of every student and to ensure that the needs of all minority students are met. The group meets in the School Board Meeting Room of the LCPS Administration Building the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 P.M. **Dr. Richard Ortega will serve as the FHR MSAAC Delegate for the 2011-2012 school year. If you have any questions or concerns, please email Dr. Ortega at rbortega@verizon.net. All are welcome to attend the meetings.**

If due to a disability, you need assistance to enable you to participate meaningfully in any activity at Frances Hazel Reid, please contact the school office at 571-252-2050, at least five working days prior to that event.

Thank You, Jacques Deaver, Eagle Scout Applicant



Jacques Deaver (pictured at left on the right) worked with Scott Sanberg (pictured at left on the left) from the Water Resources Team of the Loudoun County Department of Building and Development to complete watershed work on the Frances Hazel Reid school property. Scott's team worked on three separate Saturdays with 3-4 adults and 3-4 teenagers. The following was completed:

1. Improved the existing stand of trees by clearing around the desirable trees and removing Bradford pears, honeysuckle and wild grape. All three invasive species were encroaching and strangling many of the desirable trees.
2. Planted 50 trees (3-gal / 4-6'). Installed 5' tree tubes on each tree. Fertilized with compost and watered.
3. Removed approximately 20 bags of trash from the site and several dozen tree tubes from the previous tree planting.

The final phase of Jacques's project was to enlist an individual or group to assist with monitoring the health of the trees in future years. Smart's Mill Ecology Club agreed to take on this final piece of the project.

Jacques is a junior at Loudoun Valley High School and is looking forward to receiving his Eagle Scout badge within the next year.

The FHR students, staff, and parents would like to thank Jacques for all of his hard work. We wish him the best of luck and invite him to stop by anytime to check on the 50 trees that he and his team planted. We can only imagine what the area will look like in twenty years when the trees are mature and Jacques is a young 37 years of age.



2011-12 “Moveable Monday” Implementation Plan

LCPS Elementary Schools

“Moveable Mondays” will be used this year in all elementary schools to offset the disproportionate number of Mondays missed during the school year. As a Monday is missed, the Monday schedule is run on a subsequent day of the week. The advantage of this alternative is that the normal schedule is resumed the following week which should decrease confusion among students, parents and teachers.

Example:

Monday, Oct. 10, 2011 (Columbus Day) – All elementary schools would run their Monday schedules on Tuesday, Oct. 11 followed by the regular W-F schedule.

This plan does not accommodate schedule adjustments due to inclement weather days.

2011-12 “Moveable Monday” Implementation Schedule

Name of Holiday	Date school is closed	Use your Monday schedule on:	Use your special’s schedule as follows. Your weekly schedule will be:			
			T	W	Th	F
Labor Day	Sept 5, 2011	No Mon	T	W	Th	F
Columbus Day	Oct. 10, 2011	Tues, Oct. 11	M	W	Th	F
New Year’s	Jan 2, 2012	Wed, Jan. 4	T	M	Th	F
MLKing Day	Jan 16, 2012	Thurs, Jan. 19	T	W	M	Th
President’s Day	Feb. 20, 2012	Fri, Feb. 24	T	W	Th	M
Planning Day	April 9, 2012	No Mon	T	W	Th	F
Memorial Day	May 28, 2012	Tues, May 29	M	W	Th	F

Note: Futura would follow this schedule as well. For example, if Futura is scheduled on Wednesdays, Futura would be missed the week of Jan. 2, 2012.

Comparing the current calendar with no modifications and the Moveable Monday schedule the distribution of instructional days is as follows:

2011-2012	No modification	Modified
Monday	30	35
Tuesday	38	36
Wednesday	38	37
Thursday	37	36
Friday	37	36



Review Your Bad Weather Plan for the 2011-12 School Year:

With winter here, please take the time to review your emergency bad weather plan with your child. This plan was developed earlier in the school year and is also attached in case you need to update your plan. **Please remind your child about where to go if school is closed or if we have an early dismissal.** Children respond well when they feel confident about how emergency situations will be handled. Please refer to the information below regarding schools' operating schedule on days when a delay occurs.

When conditions require school closings or early dismissal of students, announcements will be given to the following radio and TV stations:

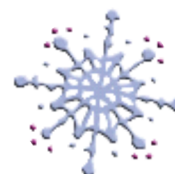


RADIO

WMAL 630 AM
WTOP 1500 AM and 103.5 FM
WINC 92.5 FM
WMRE 1550 AM

TV

WUSA TV 9
WRC TV 4
FOX TV 5
WJLA TV 7



Two-Hour Early Closing:

All routes will operate 2 hours early **with the following exceptions:**

Program	Transportation and Adjusted schedule Information
Kindergarten & Pre School Early Childhood Special Education	
AM Sessions	These students will ride their regular bus home at their regular time.
PM Sessions	Canceled
Activities	All after-school activities requiring school bus transportation are canceled. All other after school activities at FHR are canceled.

One-Hour Early Closing:

All bus routes operate as usual except starting one hour earlier than the **normal time**. All after-school activities requiring school bus transportation are canceled. All other after school activities at FHR are canceled. PM Kindergarten and Special Education Early Childhood Classes end one hour early.

Information About a Two-Hour Delayed Opening:

School opening would be delayed for two hours with the following changes:

Program	Transportation and Adjusted Schedule Information
Kindergarten & Pre School Early Childhood Special Education	
AM Sessions	These students will begin two hours late like the rest of the school, but will remain in school for two hours. <i>These students will leave school one hour later than usual.</i>
PM Sessions	These students will begin one hour late and remain in school for two hours, dismissing at the regular time.



Information About a One-Hour Delayed Opening:

All **morning** programs operate as usual except that they start one hour later.
A one-hour delay does not impact afternoon sessions.

******IMPORTANT FORM******
EMERGENCY Early Student DISMISSAL Form
2011-2012

NAME OF STUDENT _____ GRADE _____

TEACHER _____

Please complete the following information for your child's classroom teacher. Provide information on how your child will get home should we have an emergency early dismissal due to inclement weather, etc.

Please check one:

_____ ride the Loudoun County School bus home as usual

_____ ride the Loudoun County School bus home as usual and go directly to

_____ (name of neighbor)

_____ will be transported by private automobile as usual

_____ ride the daycare bus as usual _____ (name of daycare)

_____ will be picked up at school by _____ (name of adult)

_____ other (please be explicit below):

PLEASE NOTE: The CASA program will not be available should we have an emergency dismissal.

We are unable to call parents due to the large volume of phone calls and the need to keep the phone lines free for emergency information. Please review this plan with your child and be certain that he/she knows exactly what to do should we have an emergency dismissal. Thank you!

This information will be kept on file for the 2011-2012 school year.

Parent Signature

PTA Update



PTA Calendar at a Glance: **“HAPPY NEW YEAR”**

January:

Thursday 1/12: Teachers' Breakfast of Champions
Tuesday 1/17: American Citizens Club Begins
Thursday 1/19: PTA Membership Meeting 8.30am
Thursday 1/19: Spirit Night—Red Hot & Blue
(5-9pm dine in or carry out)

Loudoun Education Alliance of Parents

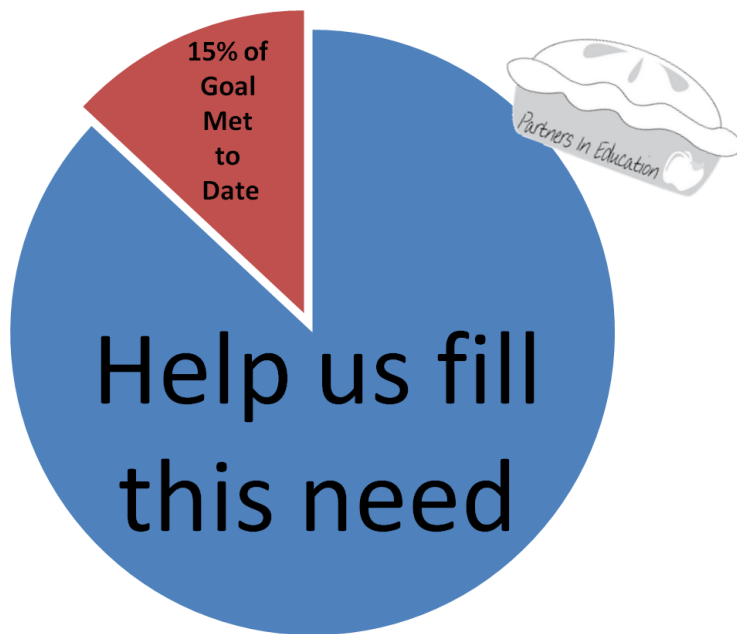
L.E.A. P. 2011-2012 Topics & Summary

The minutes of the recent LEAP meeting on “making the grade: how state and federal testing affect curriculum” are available on the FHR website under PTA. A special thank you, as always, to Arlene Thorpe for attending and bringing us this information.

NEXT MEETING:

January 11 - On the Money: Budgeting and the Strategic Plan for the 2012-2013 school year.

The meetings begin at 7:00 p.m. and are held on the first floor of the Education Building, located at: 21000 Education Court, Ashburn, VA 20148 (as a point of reference, it is next to Clyde's). For more information about LEAP, contact Arlene Thorpe, arlene@thorpemail.com or visit the Loudoun County Public Schools, website, LEAP page at: <http://www.lcps.org/Page/1462>



PARTNERS IN EDUCATION (P.I.E.)

Happy New Year to all our Frances Hazel Reid families. As this new year begins, please remember that the PTA is once again asking you to keep in mind that we need your financial help. If you have not already done so please consider sending in your P.I.E. donation. We are asking for a donation from each family this year. All money raised is used for student enrichment programs and other projects at FHR. Without your contributions, these events cannot occur. With one lump sum donation per family to P.I.E., the PTA can achieve our budget goals and continue to provide our children with excellent educational opportunities. Thank you to the families that have already made a contribution. If you have questions, please contact Lori Jones at lorijones8675@verizon.net.

PTA Membership Update

In December the PTA did a membership drive directed towards our teachers and staff. We're happy to say it was very successful....We now have 45 teachers and staff who are members of the PTA! Thank you teachers and staff for putting the "T" in the PTA at FHR! It's not too late to join—membership forms are available in the front office and on the PTA section of the FHR website. The school directories have been sent home. If you have any questions or problems please contact Lisa Carr at (lisacarr23@yahoo.com)

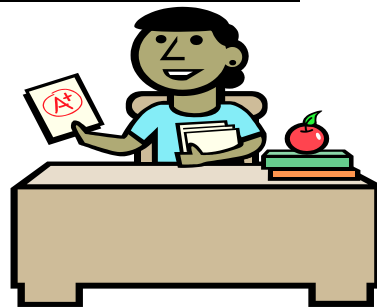


Teacher Appreciation Cookies, Breakfast & a Lunch

Here at FHR we love our teachers and staff!! In November we gave thanks with cookies and in December the PTA, with help from over 40 families treated our hard working staff to a breakfast and a holiday lunch.

Thank to all the families that contributed food, drinks and other items. Our staff are special and this is one of the ways we can thank them. The next staff breakfast will be hosted on Thursday, January 12th.

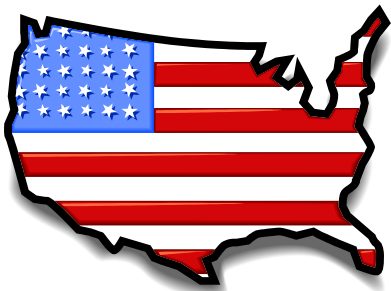
A special thank you to Jennifer Seekford for baking and distributing the yummy cookies, Kellyn Kellogg for organizing the delicious breakfast and Lori Jones for your hard work with the wonderful lunch.



In December we had our first movie afternoon with the showing of "Rio". From all reports the children that attended loved it. A special thank you to Rebeka Kole, Lori Jones, Lisa Carr and to all the volunteers who assisted. Our next movie

SCHOOL PLAY UPDATE "ALICE IN WONDERLAND"

The rehearsals for this year's school production of Alice in Wonderland are underway. The children are working hard and the show is definitely coming together beautifully. Please look for advertising opportunities and other ways to help our PTA raise funds for this production. Thank you Jenna Krieger, Pam Ray and Shawnda Saul for your time and dedication so far.....



AMERICAN CITIZENS CLUB

It's that time of year again! Time to sign up for the fun challenges of learning about geography and US government.

This is an optional program offered to grades 1-5. It's run by our wonderful PTA volunteers during the students lunch period. The quizzes have been revamped this year to support the Standards of Learning at each grade level. Students are given a study guide at each level with all the information that is tested. Students can challenge themselves to complete as many levels as they wish. After completing each level students will receive a small prize and after completing all 10 levels will receive a \$50 US Savings Bond.

The Frances Hazel Reid PTA 2011-2012 Executive Committee

Name	Position	Phone	Email
Brenda Jochems	Principal	571-252-2050	brenda.jochems@lcps.org
Stephanie Heistad	President	571-246-1712	stephanie@heistad.com
Victoria Krahulec	VP Fundraising	703-929-3136	victoriakrahulec@gmail.com
Lisa Carr	VP Social Programs	703-779-2127	lisacarr23@yahoo.com
Lori Jones	VP Social Programs	703-297-0157	lorijones8675@verizon.net
Jennifer Wilkins	VP Educational Programs	571-246-7299	wilkinsfamily@mail.com
JoAnn Schimmel	Treasurer	703-474-6607	lsschimmel@hotmail.com
Michele Stewart	Corresponding Secretary	703-626-8479	michele.stewart@lmco.com
Celene Goodwyn	Recording Secretary	703-777-3323	goodwyn31@gmail.com
Colleen Brasselle	Parent Liaison	571-252-2050	colleen.brasselle@lcps.org
Kristin Bredice	Teacher Liaison	571-252-2050	kristin.bredice@lcps.org



January 2012

Elementary Lunch Menu

Loudoun County Public Schools

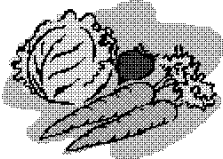
Three easy ways to pre-pay for meals and purchases:

*Cash

*Check made payable to "County of Loudoun"

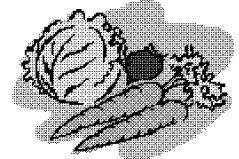
*Credit card at www.pay4lunch.com

Lunch Prices	Daily	Weekly	January
Student - Full	\$3.00	\$15.00	\$57.00
Student - Reduced	\$.40	\$2.00	\$ 7.60
Adult	\$4.00	\$20.00	\$76.00



Daily Feature Salad Meals

All Feature Salad meals include meat/meat alternate, fruit, vegetable, grain and your choice of milk.



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Vegetarian Chef Salad Traditional Chef Salad Hummus Vegetable	Vegetarian Chef Salad Traditional Chef Salad Chicken Caesar	Vegetarian Chef Salad Traditional Chef Salad Hummus Vegetable Taco Salad on Taco Day	Vegetarian Chef Salad Traditional Chef Salad Fruit Salad with Yogurt	Tuna Salad Hummus Vegetable

Additional Daily Items – Yogurt and Bagel Entrée and Fresh Side Salads

Choice of milk available with all meals.

Monday 01/2	Tuesday 01/3	Wednesday 01/4	Thursday 01/5	Friday 01/6
No School	<p>Choose one Entrée: Chicken Nuggets Ham & Cheese Bagel + All: Steamed Brown Rice</p> <p>No Salads Today</p> <p>Choice of Three: Steamed Broccoli Mandarin Oranges Chilled Pears</p>	<p>Choose one Entrée: Italian Dunker # with Mozzarella Breadstick Chicken Filet on Bun</p> <p>Choice of Three: Steamed Corn Green Leaf and Spinach Salad Chilled Mixed Fruit</p>	<p>Choose one Entrée: Beef Nachos # with Baked Tostitos® Scoops® Bean Nachos* with Baked Tostitos® Scoops® Corn Dog All: Whole Wheat Pretzel Rod</p> <p>Choice of Three: Refried Beans Steamed Spinach Chilled Applesauce</p>	<p>Choose one Entrée Pizza * MaxSnax Cheesiest Con Queso</p> <p>Choice of Three: Steamed Green Peas Steamed Mixed Vegetables Chilled Peaches</p>
Monday 01/9	Tuesday 01/10	Wednesday 01/11	Thursday 01/12	Friday 01/13
<p>Choose one Entrée: Chicken Nuggets Hamburger on Bun # Cheeseburger on Bun # All: Asian Noodles</p> <p>Choice of three: Steamed Green Beans Mandarin Oranges Chilled Pineapple</p>	<p>Choose one Entrée: Baked Mozzarella Cheese Sticks * with Marinara Sauce Chicken Fajita Rice Bowl All: Steamed Brown Rice</p> <p>Choice of three: Steamed Broccoli Sweet Potato Souffle Chilled Pears</p>	<p>Choose one Entrée: Taco Pie # Mini Corn Dogs All: Whole Wheat Pretzel Rod</p> <p>Choice of three: Vegetarian Baked Beans Steamed Spinach Chilled Applesauce</p>	<p>Choose one Entrée: Spaghetti w/ Meatballs # Spaghetti w/ String Cheese and Marinara Sauce * Fish Nuggets * All: Wheat Roll</p> <p>Choice of three: Steamed Corn Green Leaf and Spinach Salad Chilled Mixed Fruit</p>	<p>Choose one Entrée: Pizza * Quesadilla Pizza Chicken & Cheese Enchilada</p> <p>Choice of three: Steamed Green Peas Steamed Mixed Vegetables Chilled Peaches</p>
Monday 01/16	Tuesday 01/17	Wednesday 01/18	Thursday 01/19	Friday 01/20
<p>Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday</p> <p>No School</p>	<p>Choose one Entrée: Macaroni & Cheese * with Wheat Roll Hamburger on Bun # Cheeseburger on Bun #</p> <p>Choice of three: Steamed Broccoli Steamed Baby Carrots Chilled Pears</p>	<p>Choose one Entrée: Soft Taco # Bean Soft Taco * Fish Nuggets * All: Whole Wheat Pretzel Rod Taco Salad #</p> <p>Choice of three: Refried Beans Lettuce, Tomato & Cheese Chilled Applesauce</p>	<p>Choose one Entrée: Chicken Nuggets with Wheat Roll Open Faced Roast Turkey Sandwich</p> <p>Choice of three: Mashed Potatoes Steamed Spinach Chilled Pineapple</p>	<p>Choose one Entrée: Pizza * Teriyaki Chicken All: Steamed Brown Rice</p> <p>Choice of three: Steamed Mixed Vegetables Green Leaf and Spinach Salad Chilled Peaches</p>

Monday 01/23	Tuesday 01/24	Wednesday 01/25	Thursday 01/26	Friday 01/27
Moveable Student Holiday	Choose one Entrée: Chicken Nuggets Ham & Cheese Bagel + All: Steamed Brown Rice	Choose one Entrée: Italian Dunker # with Mozzarella Breadstick Chicken Filet on Bun	Choose one Entrée: Beef Nachos # with Baked Tostitos® Scoops® Bean Nachos* with Baked Tostitos® Scoops® Corn Dog All: Whole Wheat Pretzel Rod	Choose one Entrée Pizza * MaxSnax Cheesiest Con Queso
	Choice of Three: Steamed Broccoli Mandarin Oranges Chilled Pears	Choice of Three: Steamed Corn Green Leaf and Spinach Salad Chilled Mixed Fruit	Choice of Three: Refried Beans Steamed Spinach Chilled Applesauce	Choice of Three: Steamed Green Peas Steamed Mixed Vegetables Chilled Peaches
Monday 01/30	Tuesday 01/31			
Choose one Entrée: Chicken Nuggets Hamburger on Bun # Cheeseburger on Bun # All: Asian Noodles	Choose one Entrée: Baked Mozzarella Cheese Sticks * with Marinara Sauce Chicken Fajita Rice Bowl All: Steamed Brown Rice			
Choice of three: Steamed Green Beans Mandarin Oranges Chilled Pineapple	Choice of three: Steamed Broccoli Sweet Potato Souffle Chilled Pears			

Menu Key - # Beef, * Vegetarian, + Pork

Every elementary school in Loudoun County participates in the National School Breakfast Program! The breakfast program is open to all students. Students approved for free lunches are also eligible to receive a free breakfast. Students approved for reduced lunches are also eligible to receive a reduced breakfast at a cost of \$.30.

Weekly Breakfast Menu

Student Price \$2.00

Reduced Price \$.30

Adult Price \$2.25

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Choose one entrée: Mini Pancakes * Cereal with Whole Wheat Toast or Scooby-Doo™ Bones SunChips® Cinnamon Mix- Ups with String Cheese *	Choose one entrée: Breakfast Chicken Sandwich Cereal & Graham Crackers	Choose one entrée: Sausage & Cheese Sandwich + Cereal with Whole Wheat Toast or Scooby-Doo™ Bones SunChips® Cinnamon Mix- Ups with String Cheese	Choose one entrée: Cinnamon Roll & Cheese Stick * Cereal & Graham Crackers	Choose one entrée: Ham, Egg & Cheese Twister Roll Cereal with Whole Wheat Toast or Scooby-Doo™ Bones SunChips® Cinnamon Mix- Ups with String Cheese
Choose both: Assorted Juice Choice of Milk	Choose both: Assorted Juice Choice of Milk	Choose both: Assorted Juice Choice of Milk	Choose both: Assorted Juice Choice of Milk	Choose both: Assorted Juice Choice of Milk

If you have questions, concerns, or suggestions about the Child Nutrition Programs, please contact the Food Services Supervisor at (571) 252-1010 or e-mail: jinny_demastes@lcpd.org. Menus are subject to change without notice.

Due to product changes, ingredient lists may not be 100% accurate. Due to product unavailability, menu substitutions may be made from time to time. To verify menu substitutions for your school, please contact the cafeteria manager. Please be aware that some food items served on the Loudoun County Public School menu may have been manufactured in a facility, or on shared equipment with other peanut or tree nut products.

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Site Tools »

GOVERNMENT

SERVICES

BUSINESS

HOW DO I...

ABOUT LOUDOUN

Tuscarora High School Stream Restoration

Dry Hollow Road Tree Planting and Maintenance

Smarts Mill Demonstration Native Meadow

Ida Lee Park Riparian Tree Planting

Tuscarora High School Tree Planting

Tuscarora High School Outdoor Classroom

Equine Medical Center Wetland Restoration

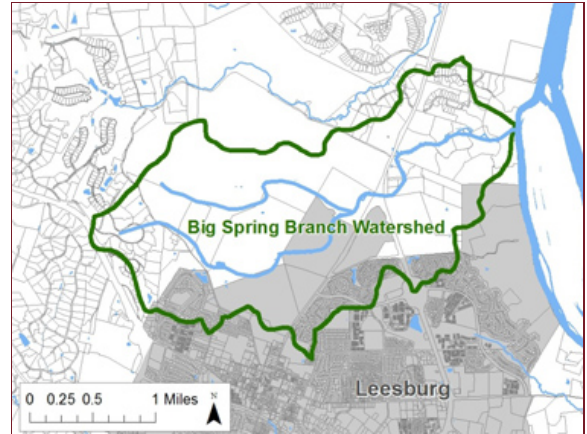
Home > Government > County Departments > Departments A-G > Building & Development > Natural, Environmental & Cultural Resources > Water & Hydrology > Watersheds > Big Spring Creek Watershed Project

Big Spring Creek Watershed Restoration Project

In December of 2010, Loudoun County was notified that it would receive an \$80,000 grant for watershed restoration in the Big Spring Branch watershed, north of downtown Leesburg.

Loudoun County was one of nearly three dozen local governments and organizations to receive funding from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency through the Chesapeake Bay Small Watershed Grants program, which is administered through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

Loudoun County is using the grant money to improve conditions in Big Spring Branch watershed by planting trees in riparian areas, stream and pond restoration projects, and public education. The project is managed by the county's Water Resources Team within the Department of Building and Development.



The Chesapeake Bay Small Watershed Grants program provides grants to organizations and local governments working on a local level to protect and improve watersheds in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Since the program began ten years ago, it has distributed over \$27 million to more than 600 projects in the watershed.

More information about specific aspects of the project may be found by clicking on the links on the left-side of this webpage. You may click on the map above for a larger view of the watershed with specific project site locations noted.

For More Information

More information about specific aspects of the project may be found by clicking on the links on the left-side of this webpage. For more information about the project as a whole, please contact Scott Sandberg in the Department of Building and Development at 571-258-3304.

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LOUDOUN ON

Facebook Twitter

YouTube RSS

EMAIL UPDATES





Site Tools »

- GOVERNMENT
- SERVICES
- BUSINESS
- HOW DO I...
- ABOUT LOUDOUN

Tuscarora High School Stream Restoration

Dry Hollow Road Tree Planting and Maintenance

Smarts Mill Demonstration Native Meadow

Ida Lee Park Riparian Tree Planting

Tuscarora High School Tree Planting

Tuscarora High School Outdoor Classroom

Equine Medical Center Wetland Restoration

[Home](#) > [Government](#) > [County Departments](#) > [Departments A-G](#) > [Building & Development](#) > [Natural, Environmental & Cultural Resources](#) > [Water & Hydrology](#) > [Watersheds](#) > [Big Spring Creek Watershed Project](#) > Tuscarora High School Stream Restoration

Tuscarora High School Stream Restoration

The southern fork of Big Spring Branch flows across the property of the new Tuscarora High School. During construction of Tuscarora High School, the school system provided many enhancements to the stream. In particular, much of the stream channel was restored and stabilized, riparian areas were planted with trees and shrubs, and an old farm pond was converted to a wetland. All these changes will dramatically improve the stream conditions on the property and will also serve as an excellent teaching resource for the students.



The Loudoun County Public School's investment in the stream restoration work related to the new school construction was fundamental to the Department of Building and Development's ability to propose and win the Big Spring grant.



LOUDOUN ON





Site Tools »

GOVERNMENT

SERVICES

BUSINESS

HOW DO I...

ABOUT LOUDOUN

Tuscarora High School Stream Restoration

Dry Hollow Road Tree Planting and Maintenance

Smarts Mill Demonstration Native Meadow

Ida Lee Park Riparian Tree Planting

Tuscarora High School Tree Planting

Tuscarora High School Outdoor Classroom

Equine Medical Center Wetland Restoration

[Home](#) > [Government](#) > [County Departments](#) > [Departments A-G](#) > [Building & Development](#) > [Natural, Environmental & Cultural Resources](#) > [Water & Hydrology](#) > [Watersheds](#) > [Big Spring Creek Watershed Project](#) > Dry Hollow Road Tree Planting and Maintenance

Dry Hollow Road Tree Planting and Maintenance

An 8.5-acre, undeveloped parcel of land near Francis Hazel Reid Elementary School was identified to receive a portion of the Big Spring Creek Watershed Restoration grant funding.

The land has remained undisturbed since 2003 when a tree planting was undertaken on a portion of the property. While the dense vegetation covering the parcel currently has many water quality and wildlife benefits, the diversity of species on the parcel is less than ideal. A large percentage of the vegetation includes invasive species that are successfully out-competing the native plant species. In particular, "Bradford" pears and Japanese Honeysuckle have overrun much of the site and are overtaking the previously planted trees and native seedlings that have sprouted.



Boy Scouts of America Troop 969 worked with Loudoun County to help improve this parcel of land. As part of an Eagle Scout Project, the troop worked hard during the fall of 2011 to:

- Remove approximately 30 large bags of trash from the site.
- Locate the existing native trees and improve their survivability by clearing encroaching pear trees, honeysuckle and wild grape.
- Plant 50 new native trees on the site.



LOUDOUN ON



EMAIL UPDATES





Site Tools »

GOVERNMENT

SERVICES

BUSINESS

HOW DO I...

ABOUT LOUDOUN

Tuscarora High School Stream Restoration

Dry Hollow Road Tree Planting and Maintenance

Smarts Mill Demonstration Native Meadow

Ida Lee Park Riparian Tree Planting

Tuscarora High School Tree Planting

Tuscarora High School Outdoor Classroom

Equine Medical Center Wetland Restoration

[Home](#) > [Government](#) > [County Departments](#) > [Departments A-G](#) > [Building & Development](#) > [Natural, Environmental & Cultural Resources](#) > [Water & Hydrology](#) > [Watersheds](#) > [Big Spring Creek Watershed Project](#) > Smarts Mill Demonstration Native Meadow

Smarts Mill Demonstration Native Meadow

Approximately 225 students from Smart's Mill Middle School participated in planting a demonstration native grass meadow on the school grounds. An interpretive sign was created to explain the benefits of this alternative landscaping practice. The meadow will be maintained by the Smart's Mill Middle School Ecology Club.



Garden Planting



Demonstration Garden



Interpretive Sign

Prairie Dropseed is one of the native plants in the garden.

The native plants in the garden are:

- *Sporobolus heterolepis* (Prairie Dropseed)
- *Andropogon gerardii* (Big Bluestem)
- *Panicum virgatum* (Switchgrass)
- *Schizachrium scoparium* (Little Bluestem)
- *Chasmantheium latifoli* (Northern Sea Oats)
- *Liatris spicata* (Blazing Star)
- *Rudbeckia triloba* (Brown-eyed Susan)
- *Liatris microcephala* (Smallhead Blazing Star)
- *Monarda jacob cline* (Bee Balm)
- *Echinacea pur magnus* (Purple Coneflower)
- *Aster laevis* (Smooth Blue Aster)
- *Aster spectabilis* (Showy Aster)
- *Eupatorium coelestinum* (Blue Mistflower)
- *Aster novae-angilae* (New England Aster)
- *Tradescantia ohioensis* (Common Spiderwort)
- *Cassia marilandica* (Wild Senna)
- *Baptisia australis* (Wild Indigo)
- *Sedum ternatum* (Wild Stonecrop)
- *Chrysogonum virginiam* (Golden Star)
- *Allium cernuum* (Nodding Onion)
- *Pycnanthemum muticum* (Mountain Mint)



LOUDOUN ON



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Site Tools »

GOVERNMENT

SERVICES

BUSINESS

HOW DO I...

ABOUT LOUDOUN

Tuscarora High School Stream Restoration

Dry Hollow Road Tree Planting and Maintenance

Smarts Mill Demonstration Native Meadow

Ida Lee Park Riparian Tree Planting

Tuscarora High School Tree Planting

Tuscarora High School Outdoor Classroom

Equine Medical Center Wetland Restoration

Home > [Government](#) > [County Departments](#) > [Departments A-G](#) > [Building & Development](#) > [Natural, Environmental & Cultural Resources](#) > [Water & Hydrology](#) > [Watersheds](#) > [Big Spring Creek Watershed Project](#) > [Ida Lee Park Riparian Tree Planting](#)

Ida Lee Park Riparian Tree Planting

The southern fork of Big Spring Branch runs through Ida Lee Park. In 2003, about an acre of the park was removed from the mowing maintenance and planted with small trees. A few very dry years and intensive deer pressure resulted in the loss of many of the planted trees.

Loudoun County, in cooperation with the Town of Leesburg and the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy, conducted maintenance on the previously planted trees, removed another 2.5 acres from the mowing maintenance and planted 200 new tree seedlings in the 3.5-acre area. Approximately 100 volunteers from local scouting troops, the Lions Club, a Sorority Chapter and many individuals and families braved a chilly November morning to plant the trees.



The following week, the trees were protected from deer damage with the installation of tree tubes and stakes.

The trees are being monitored to ensure they get a healthy start. As the trees grow, they will improve the water quality in the stream by filtering out nutrients, contaminants and sediment while also providing beneficial wildlife habitat.

Tree species that were planted included:

- Allee Elm
- Bald Cypress
- Northern Red Oak
- Nutall Oak
- Red Maple
- Scarlet Oak
- Tulip Poplar
- Willow Oak



VOLUNTEER/CONNECT

LOUDOUN ON

Facebook Twitter

YouTube RSS

EMAIL UPDATES



Site Tools »

GOVERNMENT

SERVICES

BUSINESS

HOW DO I...

ABOUT LOUDOUN

Tuscarora High School Stream Restoration

Dry Hollow Road Tree Planting and Maintenance

Smarts Mill Demonstration Native Meadow

Ida Lee Park Riparian Tree Planting

Tuscarora High School Tree Planting

Tuscarora High School Outdoor Classroom

Equine Medical Center Wetland Restoration

[Home](#) > [Government](#) > [County Departments](#) > [Departments A-G](#) > [Building & Development](#) > [Natural, Environmental & Cultural Resources](#) > [Water & Hydrology](#) > [Watersheds](#) > [Big Spring Creek Watershed Project](#) > Tuscarora High School Tree Planting

Tuscarora High School Tree Planting

The southern fork of Big Spring Branch runs through the Tuscarora High School property. Significant planting of trees and shrubs was undertaken during school construction; however, deer pressure on the property has resulted in high mortality rates of trees in some areas.

In May 2012, students from the environmental science classes of the high school planted 100 4-6' trees in the riparian areas of the stream. The new trees were protected with 5' ventilated tubes and weed mats.

In the spring of 2014, an additional 175 trees were planted to augment the riparian buffer in width and density along the stream. Tree tubes were used to enhance protection from deer and buried metal mesh cylinders were placed around the root ball to protect from voles.



Tree species that were planted included:

- American Elm
- Chinkapin Oak
- Bald Cypress
- Willow Oak
- Red Maple

VOLUNTEER/CONNECT

LOUDOUN ON

Facebook Twitter

YouTube RSS

EMAIL UPDATES





Site Tools »

GOVERNMENT

SERVICES

BUSINESS

HOW DO I...

ABOUT LOUDOUN

Tuscarora High School Stream Restoration

Dry Hollow Road Tree Planting and Maintenance

Smarts Mill Demonstration Native Meadow

Ida Lee Park Riparian Tree Planting

Tuscarora High School Tree Planting

Tuscarora High School Outdoor Classroom

Equine Medical Center Wetland Restoration

[Home](#) > [Government](#) > [County Departments](#) > [Departments A-G](#) > [Building & Development](#) > [Natural, Environmental & Cultural Resources](#) > [Water & Hydrology](#) > [Watersheds](#) > [Big Spring Creek Watershed Project](#) > Tuscarora High School Outdoor Classroom

Tuscarora High School Outdoor Classroom

One goal of the Big Spring Branch Watershed Restoration grant is to incorporate outdoor learning environments into the Tuscarora High School property. Reaching this goal was assisted by the Northern Virginia Nursery and Landscape Association (NVNLA) through funding and resources the group provided in 2011. NVNLA created an outdoor classroom with large boulders and permeable interlocking concrete pavers.

The project is ideally situated to overlook the floodplain and riparian buffer of Big Spring Creek and demonstrates how pervious materials can be used to create low-impact outdoor spaces.

The Big Spring Branch Watershed Restoration grant funding contributed to the outdoor space by providing supplies to landscape the area with a rich selection of native plants.

High school students planted eleven large trees in the area in the fall of 2012. Additional native shrubs and flowers are to be planted in the spring of 2013.



VOLUNTEER/CONNECT

LOUDOUN ON

Facebook Twitter

YouTube RSS

EMAIL UPDATES





Site Tools »

GOVERNMENT

SERVICES

BUSINESS

HOW DO I...

ABOUT LOUDOUN

Tuscarora High School Stream Restoration

Dry Hollow Road Tree Planting and Maintenance

Smarts Mill Demonstration Native Meadow

Ida Lee Park Riparian Tree Planting

Tuscarora High School Tree Planting

Tuscarora High School Outdoor Classroom

Equine Medical Center Wetland Restoration

[Home](#) > [Government](#) > [County Departments](#) > [Departments A-G](#) > [Building & Development](#) > [Natural, Environmental & Cultural Resources](#) > [Water & Hydrology](#) > [Watersheds](#) > [Big Spring Creek Watershed Project](#) > Equine Medical Center Wetland Restoration

Marion duPont Scott Equine Medical Center Wetland Restoration

An area on the Marion duPont Scott Equine Medical Center property receives stream flow from two small headwater streams of the Big Spring Branch watershed. For several decades, the area was a large man-made pond. Over the years, the pond had deteriorated and the streams simply flowed through this low area. Flooding and erosion were becoming problems for the site.

A wetland restoration project in this area remedied the existing problems and provided significant wildlife and water quality benefits. Loudoun County worked with a local ecologist to design a wetland restoration project for the site. The resulting design called for re-grading the area so that it captures the existing stream flow into a series of pools.

The area will provide the following wildlife and water quality benefits to the Big Spring Branch watershed:

- Stormwater storage capacity which prevents downstream erosion and flooding
- Wetland filtering and infiltration which improves downstream water quality
- Wetland habitat for wildlife
- Native plant species that provide food for wildlife

Volunteers assisted with the project to replant the area with:

- Black Gum
- Grey Dogwood
- Pin Oak
- Swamp White Oak
- Wildflower and grassland species



LOUDOUN ON



EMAIL UPDATES





Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund Final Programmatic Report Narrative

1. Project Description.

Loudoun County is located in Northern Virginia approximately 30 miles west of Washington, D.C. The county covers an area of 521 square miles and is bordered on the north by the Potomac River and the west by the Blue Ridge Mountains. The county has been one of the fastest growing counties in the nation during the past decade. The Big Spring Branch watershed in Loudoun County, Virginia, is located along the northern edge of the County seat, Leesburg, and is unique because of its many historic and ecological resources. The watershed is home to the largest limestone spring in the county and the stream section below the spring supports the best trout stream in the county. With this in mind, the Big Spring Branch Restoration Project sought to complete a series of tasks that would improve the quality of the stream and educate the local residents about the value of the stream and about ways individuals can have a positive impact on its quality. The project incorporated nine different tasks in several locations, including each of the three schools in the watershed; a high school, a middle school and an elementary.

2. Summary of Accomplishments

Loudoun County was assisted by approximately 640 volunteers as the Big Spring Restoration Project completed the following nine specific tasks: (1) Tuscarora High School stream restoration featuring: created wetlands, stream bank stabilization, riparian buffer plantings and restored fish passage, (2) creation of an outdoor classroom at Tuscarora High School, (3) conversion of an abandoned farm pond into a wetland, (4) creation of a demonstration rain garden, (5) expansion and maintenance of the Ida Lee riparian buffer tree planting, (6) repair, maintenance and enhancement of the Francis Hazel Reid Elementary School tree buffer/water quality area, (7) creation of a demonstration native plant meadow, (8) water quantity and quality monitoring, and (9) education and outreach to the public schools and surrounding community. The outcomes resulting from the tasks included: (1) significant long-term restoration of a stream segment, (2) construction of an outdoor classroom used by students, (3) a new wetland that collects and filters water from two stream tributaries, (4) a highly visible rain garden with an interpretative sign that informs and demonstrates the value of rain gardens, (5) an improved and expanded riparian buffer resulting from the planting of 250 4-6' trees, (6) an improved tree buffer/water quality area, (7) a highly visible native meadow garden with an interpretative sign to inform and demonstrates alternative native landscaping techniques, (8) an improved understanding of the water quality in the Big Spring watershed, and (9) a greater understanding of the actions the public can make to improve stream water quality.

3. Project Activities & Outcomes

Activities

Task 1 – Tuscarora High School Stream Restoration – The construction of Tuscarora High School was completed during the summer of 2011. This high school site is 132 acres and Big Spring Branch traverses the middle of the property. Due to the sensitive nature of the watershed, a significant amount of money related to the school construction was allocated to stream restoration. While the high school was under construction, a firm completed: 1,917 linear feet of stream bank restoration, 18.2 acres of riparian buffer plantings, and the creation of 1.1 acres of wetland. The task was completed as described in the original proposal.

Task 2 – Tuscarora High School Outdoor Classroom –

- Approximately 190 students participated in four planting events at the high school. The students planted 182 four to six-foot tall trees in the riparian areas of the property and landscaped the outdoor classroom with over 100 wildflowers, shrubs and trees. The following year an additional 175 trees were planted to improve the overall density and expand the riparian buffer to at least 35 feet.
- An outdoor classroom featuring permeable pavers, boulders and an overhead shade structure was constructed overlooking a beautiful area of the Big Spring Branch floodplain. The classroom was constructed with cooperation from the Northern Virginia Nursery and Landscape Association and an Eagle Scout project.

- Five interpretive signs were designed by students from the Environmental Science classes at the high school. The frames and posts for the signs were built by students from the Technical Education class at the high school.
- Due to concerns over handicap access and potential exposure to ticks, the nature trail was moved to asphalted areas of the high school parking and access roads. All 5 interpretive signs can be accessed via an asphalt pathway and overload the key environmental feature of the property.

Task 3 – Marion DuPont Scott Equine Medical Center Wetland Restoration – The former pond area was graded using a bulldozer over the course of two weeks. Following grading, the site was stabilized with erosion control fabric and straw and finally seeded with a wetland seed mix. Approximately 60 volunteers participated in 2 volunteer events held in the fall of 2012 and the spring of 2013 to augment the wetland with 78 four to six-foot tall trees and 414 wetland shrubs and emergent plants. The completed task resulted in a 3.5 acre wetland area featuring 2 incoming streams feeding 4 shallow pools and 3 vernal pool areas. The task was completed as described in the original proposal.

Task 4 – Little Spring Pond Renovation – The Little Spring pond task was abandoned for two reasons: (1) the engineering aspects of the work proved to be more difficult and expensive than originally anticipated and (2) the use of public funds for work on private property became problematic. The resources for the project were reallocated to Task 3.

Task 5 – Ida Lee Park Riparian Tree Planting – Approximately 140 volunteers participated in two volunteer tree planting events in the fall of 2011 and the spring of 2013. This task resulted in an improvement to the 5.5 acre riparian area at Ida Lee Park. The riparian area was expanded by 2.5 acres and in this area 250 four to six-foot trees were planted and the area was removed from the mowing schedule. This task was completed as described in the original proposal.

Task 6 – Francis Hazel Reid Water Quality Area Improvement – Approximately 25 volunteers assisted with an Eagle Scout project focused on improving a 5 acre area that receives stormwater from a neighboring subdivision. The following actions were completed in the area: 30 large bags of trash collected, invasive trees and vines removed from around existing native trees and 50 new trees were planted. This task was completed as described in the original proposal.

Task 7 – Smarts Mill Middle School Rain Garden – Approximately 30 students participated in planting 40 wildflowers, shrubs and trees in a rain garden constructed at Smarts Mill Middle School. This task resulted in the construction of a rain garden in a highly visible area of the school. The rain garden also features an interpretive sign which explains the value and function of rain garden. In the original proposal, Task 7 was planned to work with homeowners in the Big Spring subdivision to plant trees and improve the riparian buffer along the stream. The work in the Big Spring subdivision was abandoned for two reasons: (1) a lack of interest by the property owners, and (2) the use of public funds for work on private property became problematic.

Task 8 – Smarts Mill Middle School Demonstration Native Meadow – Approximately 225 students participated in planting 474 native plants in a native meadow demonstration garden in a highly visible area of the school. The native meadow garden also features an interpretive sign which explains the value of landscaping with native wildflowers instead of fescue lawns and non-native plant species. In the original proposal, Task 7 was to be focused on educating the public about the benefits of disconnecting downspouts from a direct connection with the stormwater system. The downspout disconnection task was abandoned because the native meadow project was considered superior due to the involvement of students and the long-term educational benefit of the garden and signage.

Task 9 – Water Monitoring – Over 450 measurements of water quality were collected over the course of a year from 7 locations. Field personnel used a field multi-meter to collect: temperature, pH, conductivity, turbidity and total dissolved solids. Laboratory desktop methods were used to determine: nitrate, phosphate and total hardness. A benthic macroinvertebrate sample was also collected from below the spring. This task was completed as described in the original proposal.

Task 10 – Education and Outreach – Over 640 volunteers participated in the various tasks of the project which included planting trees in riparian areas, planting wildflowers and trees in demonstration gardens, and planting wetlands. In addition to these hands-on tasks, seven interpretive signs will remain and continue to educate the public about: rain gardens, native meadows, wetland habitat, stream habitat, riparian buffer, and blue bird conservation.

Outcomes

Task 1 – Tuscarora High School Stream Restoration – The completed task resulted in: 1,917 linear feet of restored stream bank, 18.2 acres of riparian buffer restored, and the creation of 1.1 acres of wetland. Prior to the work, the stream banks were severely eroded, few riffles were visible and the riparian areas contained few trees. The completed restoration work has greatly improved the stability of the stream banks as well as the overall stream morphology with a much better riffle-pool-riffle structure. The outcome is improved stream habitat and decreased bank erosion. The riparian areas of the stream are no longer cultivated or mowed and have been planted with grasses and seedlings. This has resulted in an outcome of decreased riparian erosion and improved nutrient filtration. A new wetland was created on the property that accepts stormwater as the stream flow increases. The outcome of constructing this wetland is decreased stormwater volume and velocity downstream of the school and water quality improvements by filtering stormwater and recharging groundwater. Another outcome is that all of these improvements are on the high school property and will be used as an outdoor laboratory by students for years to come. The task was completed as described in the original proposal.

Task 2 – Tuscarora High School Outdoor Classroom – This task resulted in an outdoor classroom area that is landscaped with native tree, shrubs and wildflowers and overlooks the stream floodplain. The classroom was constructed with permeable pavers and boulders and has an overhead shade structure. The task was completed similarly as described in the original proposal, but with the addition of planting 182 trees in the riparian areas by the students. To expand upon the original planting, a second planting of 150 trees was completed. The task also incorporated the installation of interpretive signs highlighting the various environmental features of the high school property and improvements made during this project. Due to concerns over handicap access and the tick population, the nature trail was moved to asphalted areas of the high school and all 5 interpretive signs can be accessed via an asphalt path. The outcomes of the outdoor classroom and interpretive signs are education about functions of the local natural systems and will be accessible and visible to the public as well as utilized by students of the high school for years to come. The outcome of the riparian tree plantings are increased natural habitat, reduction of soil erosion, and filtering of nutrients and sediment from water flowing towards the stream. ,

Task 3 – Marion DuPont Scott Equine Medical Center Wetland Restoration – This task resulted in a 3.5 acre wetland area fed by 2 incoming streams and featuring 4 shallow pools, 3 vernal pool areas, 78 newly planted hardwood trees, and 414 newly planted wetland shrubs and emergent plants. The outcomes of this task are: (1) The wetland will have significant water quality benefits to the watershed because it is fed by over 420 acres of watershed in the headwaters of Big Spring Branch. The surface water runoff from that acreage flows through three wetland pools and exits back into the stream via a newly constructed outlet device. (2) The wetland basin will detain stormwater from large rainfall events and slowly release water to the creek and via groundwater recharge. (3) The overall wildlife habitat of the area has been greatly improved. Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy will be utilizing the area for education purposes related to amphibian, butterfly and bird monitoring. The task was completed as described in the original proposal.

Task 4 – Little Spring Pond Renovation – The Little Spring pond project was abandoned for two reasons: (1) the engineering aspects of the work proved to be more difficult and expensive than anticipated and (2) the use of public funds for improvements on private property became problematic. The resources for the project were reallocated to Task 3.

Task 5 – Ida Lee Park Riparian Tree Planting – This task resulted in the maintenance and improvement of the 5.5 acre riparian area at Ida Lee Park. The existing riparian area was expanded by 2.5 acres via the planting of 250 four to six-foot tall trees and removal of the area from the property maintenance mowing plan. The outcome of this task includes increasing the expanse of the riparian buffer in the floodplain, which will improve the water quality of the stream by lower stream temperatures, decreasing nutrient and sediment runoff, and slowing the water during flood events. Furthermore, this area of the park is used by runners and walkers and the addition of the trees will greatly improve the quality of their experience in the park and the overall wildlife habitat. This task was completed as described in the original proposal.

Task 6 – Francis Hazel Reid Water Quality Area Improvement – This task resulted in maintenance and improvement to a 5 acre area that receives stormwater from a neighboring subdivision. The following actions were undertaken in the area: 30 large bags of trash collected, invasive trees and vines removed from around existing native trees, and 50 new trees were planted. The outcome of these efforts is that the health of the existing native trees in the area was improved by removing invasive vines and trees that were out-competing the desirable

trees. Another outcome is that the quality of the stormwater leaving this area will continue to improve over time as the tree size continues to increase. This task was completed as described in the original proposal.

Task 7 – Smarts Mill Middle School Rain Garden – This task resulted in the construction of a rain garden in a highly visible area of the school. The rain garden also features an interpretive sign which explains the value and function of rain garden. The rain garden and sign are located beside a sidewalk which leads multiple ball fields so the outcome is that the garden will be viewable by the public and provide an educational experience for many years. A further outcome is that the rain garden will filter and infiltrate stormwater before it enters a surface drain. In the original proposal, Task 7 was planned to work with homeowners in the Big Spring subdivision to plant trees and improve the riparian buffer along the stream. The work in the Big Spring subdivision was abandoned for two reasons: (1) a lack of interest by the property owners, and (2) the use of public funds for improvements on private property became problematic.

Task 8 – Smarts Mill Middle School Demonstration Native Meadow - This task resulted in the construction of a native meadow demonstration garden in a highly visible area of the school. The native meadow garden also features an interpretive sign which explains the value of landscaping with native wildflowers instead of fescue lawns and non-native plant species. The garden is located next to a sidewalk used by the public to access the school gyms and ball field and thus, the outcome of this task will educate and inspire the public to make changes beneficial to the environment on their own property. In the original proposal, Task 7 was planned to be a renovation of the Little Spring pond area. The Little Spring pond project was abandoned for two reasons: (1) the engineering aspects of the work proved to be more difficult and expensive than anticipated and (2) the use of public funds for improvements on private property became problematic. The resources for the project were reallocated to a project on public property in a more visible location.

Task 9 – Water Monitoring – Over 450 measurements of water quality were collected over the course of a year from 7 locations. Field personnel used a field multi-meter to collect: temperature, pH, conductivity, turbidity and total dissolved solids. Laboratory desktop methods were used to determine: nitrate, phosphate and total hardness. A benthic macroinvertebrate sample was also collected from below the spring. The outcome of collecting and analyzing these data improved our understanding of the Big Spring Branch watershed. Overall, the water quality of the stream is excellent with nitrate and phosphate concentrations generally below the detention limits of 0.01 mg/L as nitrogen (N) and of 0.01 mg/L as phosphorus (P), respectively. The water exiting Big Spring had the highest nitrate concentrations and ranged from 0.02 to 2.0 mg/L as N. The volume of water exiting the spring was consistent at about 775 gallons per minute and in the summer months this flow represented the majority of the stream flow below the spring. The other notable water quality characteristic of the watershed was the increase in water hardness as the stream traversed from its headwaters, which are underlain by the metabasalt of the Catoctin Formation to the lower sections, which are underlain by the carbonate conglomerate of the Balls Bluff formation. Not surprisingly, the total hardness in the stream increased from a low of 40 mg/L as CaCO₃ to 240 mg/L as CaCO₃. The benthic macroinvertebrate populations in the stream below the spring are abundant and diverse. This is a high-quality stream which should continue to improve as a result of reduced agriculture and development and improved riparian corridors. This task was completed as described in the original proposal.

Task 10 – Education and Outreach – Over 640 volunteers participated in the various tasks of the project which included planting of trees in riparian areas, planting wildflowers and trees in demonstration gardens and planting wetlands. The outcome of this task is that many of these volunteers were school children, thus making an impression on the next generation and influencing their parents to make changes at home. In addition to these hands-on tasks, seven interpretive signs will remain and continue to educate the public about: rain gardens, native meadows, wetland habitat, stream habitat, riparian buffer, and blue bird conservation.

4. Challenges and Lessons Learned

Overall the Big Spring Branch Watershed Restoration Project received good cooperation and support from the community. In particular, working with the three schools in the watershed proved to be the most effective means of reaching the community and soliciting community support. All the projects on school property had the added benefit of engaging the student population in the field work. Several parents with children attending the schools were very helpful and supportive. In addition, the fact that many of the projects were installed on public property will mean that the demonstration projects and interpretive signage will be visible and accessible to the public for years to come.

5. Dissemination

The educational outreach of several tasks within the project will continue for years via the interpretive signs that have been created. The project created seven outdoor interpretive signs pertaining to the following topics: the use of native plants in the landscape, rain garden, riparian buffer, stream habitat, wetland habitat, and blue bird trails. These signs are located in high traffic areas on school property.

The Loudoun County website will continue to host a series of web pages that explain the Big Spring Branch grant project and the benefits of preserving our stream habitats and riparian buffers. The pages are accessible at: <http://www.loudoun.gov/bigspring>.

All of the gardens and habitats resulting from the Big Spring Branch project are on properties that are relatively accessible to the public. School groups and nonprofits like the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy will be able to access and utilize these areas to educate the public and monitoring wildlife.

6. Project Documents

Additional project documents include:

- Ten representative photographs of tree planting, wetlands planting, rain garden planting, and invasive tree and vine removal.
- Flyers that were distributed and posted in the schools to solicit student volunteer with various tree planting events.
- Two newspaper articles.