



PHOTOS BY ALEX McVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

Mike Rolband, president of Wetland Studies and Solutions, shows how restoration has affected The Glade stream for the better, by helping to cut down on erosion of the stream bank.

Reviewing Reston Stream Restoration

BY ALEX McVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

Reston residents were given an opportunity to review the stream restoration process going on in their community Saturday, June 5, with a new exhibit at the Reston Museum and a walking tour of several streams.

The Northern Virginia Stream Restoration Bank Project is a partnership between Wetland Studies and Solutions, Inc. and The Peterson Companies, who are working together with the Reston Association. The goal of Phase I of the project is to restore 14 miles of degraded streams in Snakeden Branch, The Glade and Colvin Run watersheds.

The streams are being restored using Natural Channel Design Techniques, which involve raising the stream bed, placing a reinforced bed and placement of rock and log structures designed to direct flow away from channel banks.

The project is the largest urban stream restoration in the mid-Atlantic.

RESIDENTS GATHERED at the Reston Museum Saturday, where the night before a new exhibit was opened explaining the project.

"We are trying to help people learn the history and the benefits of the project, and to show them the pros and cons of what we're trying to do," said Mike Rolband, president of WSSI. "The majority of people who have come have been pretty informed, and we've gotten a very positive response in the last few months."

After visitors viewed the exhibit, they were invited to walk to a stream in the nearby Hickory Cluster.

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This stream near Lake Anne's Hickory Cluster is one of the streams in the area that needs restoration. Residents were given a tour of two streams, one pre-restoration and one post-restoration June 5.

ter section of Lake Anne, where restoration has been proposed for mid to late 2011.

"This kind of work has been needed at Hickory Cluster for a long time," said Bonnie Whyte, a volunteer at the Reston Museum and a former resident of Hickory Cluster.

Bob Anderson, a longtime resident of Hickory Cluster, believes the project is something that is needed for the long-term well-being of the area.

"It might be a major change, but it's something that has long been needed here," he said. "It might be difficult to get through, but it will be worth it."

IN CASE any of the residents needed convincing, Rolband and his associates took them to The Glade, which had a previous section restored at the end of March, and parts of which are still ongoing.

The Glade project was delayed more than six months while the community voiced its concerns, but the end results, Whyte said, should speak for themselves.

"I'd be very surprised if [the Hickory Cluster] part was held up,

after all, now people can just go to The Glade and see the results for themselves," she said.

The restoration aims to reduce the energy level of fast-moving water, which happens during and after storms. The fast-moving water creates steep, eroding banks and threatens adjacent trails, trees and sewers.

As part of the restoration, headers and cross-veins are placed at approximately 100-foot intervals to help dissipate the water's energy. Headers, which are long, flat rocks placed horizontally across the stream, help to keep the water ripples flatter, which creates less erosion.

Cross-veins, which are long sections placed out from the headers, help to replace steep, vertical banks, which were as much as eight feet high along The Glade, Rolband said.

The area around the stream is planted with rye and millet grass and as many as 20-30 other species of plant, all of which will form a cover crop whose root system will help keep the shore intact.

For more information on stream restoration in the area, visit www.wetlandstudies.com