

SUMMARY OF STREAM RESTORATION WORK ON STONY RUN

For those of you following the stream restoration work being done on Stony Run, I wanted to give you a summary of what's been done, what is being done now, and what is going to be done in the future. Here's my understanding from Bill Stack with Baltimore City Water Quality:

The upper part of the Stony Run restoration was performed in two phases. The first phase was from Northern Parkway to Wyndhurst and involved uncovering a portion of the stream which had previously been concreted over and creating three wetland areas. Students have been testing the biggest of the wetland areas just below Deepdene and have found that it is once again performing the ecological service known as denitrification. In addition, Towson University introduced an indigenous species of fish (Black Nosed Dace) into the stream about a year and a half ago to see how they would do. To everyone's delight, the fish are flourishing.

The second phase of work in the upper portion of Stony Run took place from Wyndhurst to Cold Spring Lane. Despite two major storm events since then, the restoration efforts appear to be holding well.

Currently, the work along the lower/middle portion of Stony Run from Cold Spring Lane to approximately 1400ft below University Parkway is just getting started and will hopefully be finished by the spring of 2010. This work includes an at grade/stream crossing just north of University Parkway that will facilitate getting from one side of the trail to the other where it continues south of University. All of the work being performed includes what is known as "riparian corridor management", which among other things controls for invasive species. There is also a monitoring station set up in the Linkwood Park area of Stony Run that collects stormwater data. At the last public meeting on this issue, I got a copy of the plans for the current restoration work that show in detail what vegetation is scheduled to be removed and what will be added and where. Anyone who is interested in seeing these plans is welcome to contact me. Some mistakes were made on the upper portion of Stony Run in regard to vegetation, which we hope to avoid this time.

The JHU Department of Geography and Environmental Engineering is collaborating with the City on what is being called the Lower, Lower Stony Run below the current area of stream restoration. Work on that portion is expected to start a year or so from now and will include invasive removal and attempts to prevent the massive amounts of debris from being accumulated at the Wyman Park area where Stony Run goes underground again.

On a related subject, the sewer contractor ran into significant delays in its work, which is why Linkwood Road has been closed much longer than expected. Hopefully, these delays will resolve soon and the end is in sight on that front.