

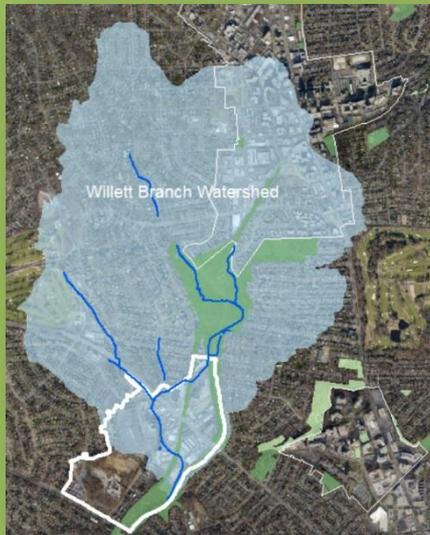
Water Quality Advisory Group
Urban Stream Systems
Master Plan Cases for Stream Naturalization

Willett Branch - a Tributary to Little Falls

Located on Private Property within the Westbard Master Plan Area

Crosses two Linear Parks in Four locations:

- Little Falls Stream Valley Park
- Capital Crescent Trail Special Park



Trail Recommendations Status
— Existing

 Westbard Plan Boundary
 Existing M-NCPPC Parkland

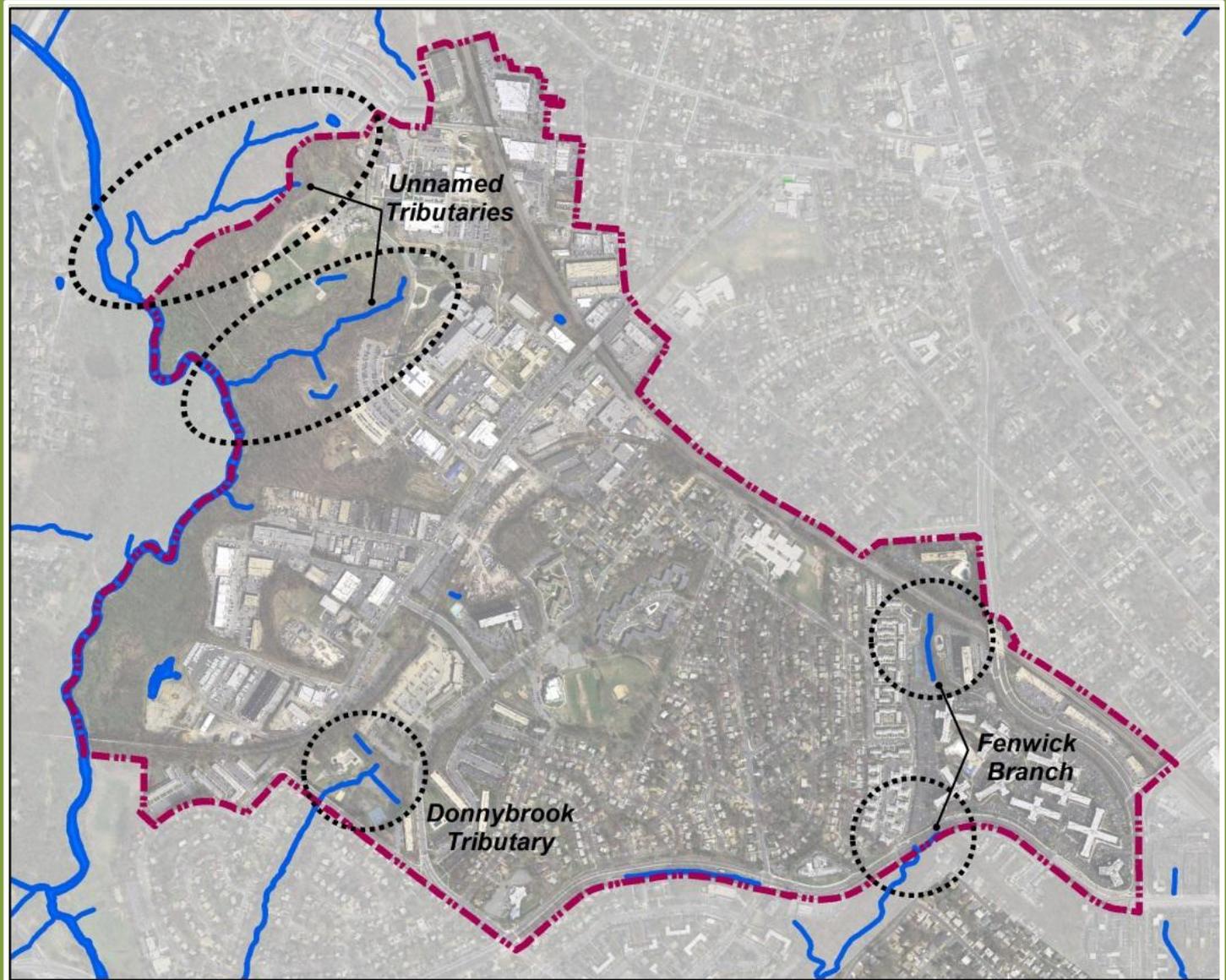


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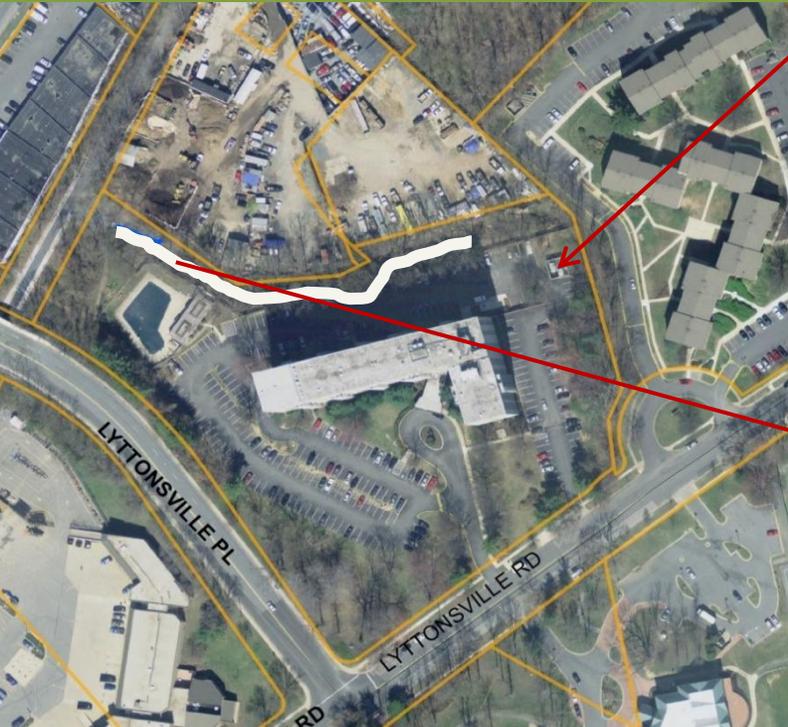
— Feet

Lyttonsville

Tributaries to
Rock Creek

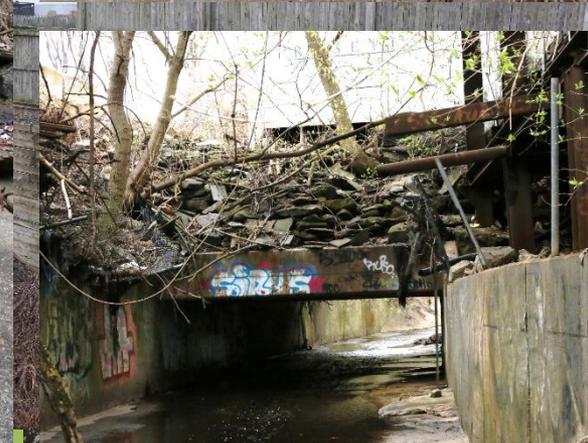


Fenwick Branch and Un-named Tributaries to Rock Creek: Existing Conditions



Willett Branch: TODAY

- Failing infrastructure
- Abandoned infrastructure
- Concrete lined trapezoidal channel
- Buildings in the stream buffer
- Barriers
- Direct storm drainage into stream
- Large areas of pavement in the buffer
- Retaining walls
- Dumping (and the physical appearance of a dump inviting more dumping)
- Buried stream



Urban Greenway

Vision: Accessible, walkable trail, and an ecologically improved and naturalized stream corridor

Purpose:

- Provide pedestrian and bicycle linkages
- Improve the ecological functioning of Willett Branch, and thus Little Falls and the Potomac, Chesapeake Bay

Potential Features:

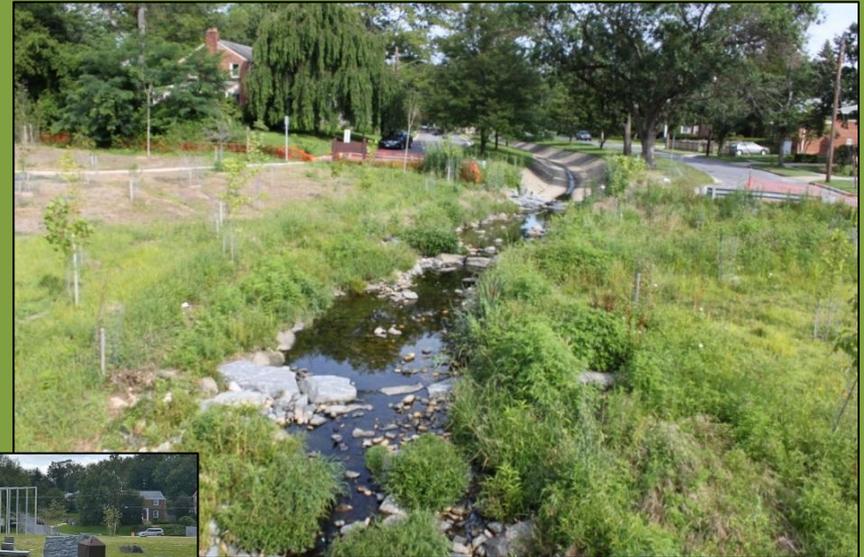
- A hard surface trail loop offering users an alternative, quieter trail experience and increased connections
- A naturalized stream
- Interpretive signage



Willett Branch Urban Greenway

Defining Terms: “Stream Naturalization”

Removing concrete-lined channels to create a more natural – although still channelized – stream.



Stream Daylighting and Naturalization in other places

Physically uncovering and opening up a buried/piped stream.



Little Sugar Creek Greenway and Daylighting Project, Charlotte, NC



Questions

1. Can naturalization efforts yield measurable results in water quality?
2. Will redevelopment under modern stormwater management standards be sufficient water quality remediation, without any stream naturalization efforts?
3. Are stream buffers relevant to redevelopment, especially in intensely developed areas?







IHOP in Meridian MS