



## Four Mile Run Construction Beginning Soon

By Aileen Winkist, Arlington County Environmental Services Watershed Outreach Program Manager

Last June, the [Arlington County Board approved a construction contract](#) for \$2.9 million to restore the lower section of Four Mile Run. This project is the first phase of the [Four Mile Run Restoration Master plan](#), approved in 2006, which envisions the restoration of the Four Mile Run corridor as a place along which Arlington and Alexandria residents can gather, recreate, and celebrate a shared waterfront legacy.

This first phase of work will occur along Four Mile Run between Mt. Vernon Avenue and Route 1. It will include naturalization of the stream bank and construction of living shoreline features; living shorelines are small stone breakwaters with wetland plants behind them, and they are a more environmentally sensitive way to protect streambanks and coastal areas. (See the picture to the right for an example of a living shoreline, this one courtesy of the Chesapeake Bay Maritime



Museum.) Living shorelines provide numerous benefits including reducing erosion along the bank, improving water quality by capturing sediment and utilizing nutrients, and providing habitat for fish and waterfowl. The existing stone riprap that currently covers the stream banks will be removed and replaced with native vegetation that will improve the habitat quality and aesthetics of the stream channel. Some of the stone will also be reused to create the living shoreline features.

Alexandria recently completed a wetland restoration project across the stream as part of the *Four Mile Run Restoration Master Plan* partnership.

Treatment of invasive plants along the stream bank in Arlington will begin in September, and construction will begin in October. Construction will last through Fall 2017.

[A trail detour will be in place throughout much of the construction.](#) The detour has been developed in coordination with the City of Alexandria and the City and County bicycle committees, and will be communicated to the public with multiple forms of advance notice as well as trail signage. The trail on the Arlington side of the stream will be completely rebuilt to current standards, including a new sub-base and asphalt surface. Improved trail railings and a new observation platform will be installed. The project meets Corps of Engineers requirements to maintain flood protection, improves pedestrian access to the waterway, as well as aquatic and riparian habitat.

For more information, visit <https://projects.arlingtonva.us/projects/four-mile-run-stream-restoration/> or contact Aileen Winquist, the Watershed Outreach Program Manager for Arlington County Environmental Services, at [awinquist@arlingtonva.us](mailto:awinquist@arlingtonva.us).

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