

FALL 2023

What's going on in Oxon Run?



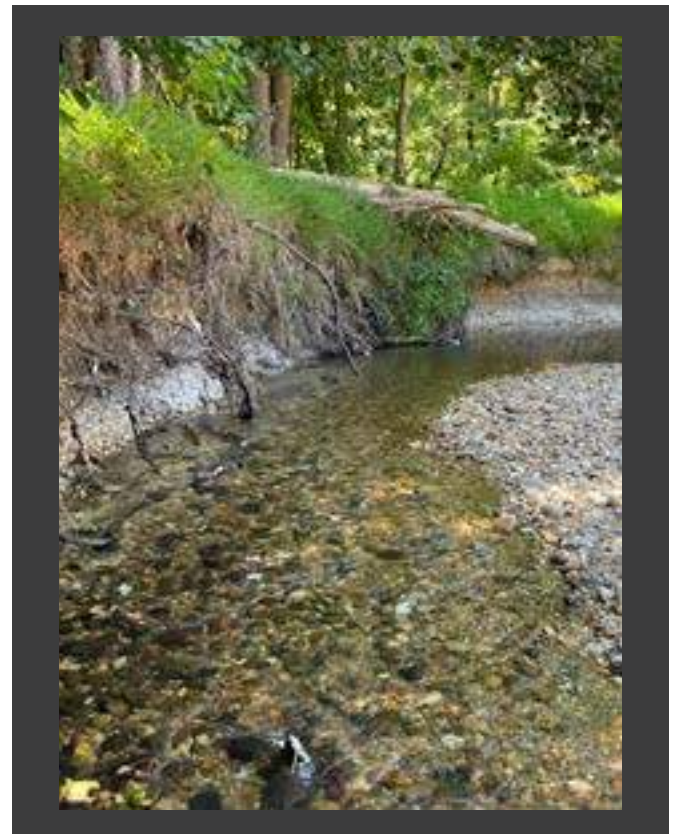
Project Update

The project website is live!

As part of the Oxon Run Stream Design & Park Master Plan project, a website has been created so that community members and other interested parties can find information about the project and stay connected as the project progresses. The website will be a clearinghouse for project information including meeting recordings, progress photos and newsletters.

The website address is: <https://www.oxonrunparkandstream.org/>

A Community Input Survey is live on the website - head on over to participate and provide your thoughts on the park and stream! You may also have seen yard signs posted throughout the park recently with the website and survey information.



Project Recap



The District Department of Energy & Environment (DOEE) awarded the Oxon Run Stream Design & Park Master Plan Contract in 2022. This contract is for design and planning purposes to layout a vision for stream restoration, develop a master park plan for Oxon Run Park, and make recommendations for sewer line improvements. Over a three-year period, the team will be monitoring the stream, hosting community engagement activities, and presenting proposed plans for community feedback.

This project is a partnership among DOEE, the DC Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR), the National Park Service (NPS), and DC Water.

What's been going on?

In the Fall 2022 Newsletter, we let you know what data the project team would be collecting and why the data was important. As we reach the end of the data collection phase, we look forward to sharing this information through multiple public meetings and charrettes in the coming months. Here is a quick preview of what we found:

Park Features Inventory and Use

Our Landscape Architects have performed research on historic and current park amenities and community use activities within the park as the basis for developing the Master Park Plan. Continued community engagement and input will be a key component to the recommendations provided in the plan.

Sanitary Sewer Infrastructure

Our Engineers have been reviewing survey and inspection data to develop recommendations for where sewers need to be replaced, repaired and/or abandoned to improve sanitation and water quality within the park boundaries.

Restoration Design Assessment

Our Design Team has been assessing how improvements to park-wide priorities, such as infrastructure (road, trails, bridges, sewers, lighting, etc.), park recreational uses and natural resources are able to meet project goals and objectives (flood resiliency, water quality, habitat, etc.).



Macroinvertebrate Sampling

Two areas were surveyed in Oxon Run to help gain an understanding of the types and quantity of macroinvertebrates that reside within the Oxon Run corridor. Site 1 was located along Oxon Run approximately 1,000 feet downstream of Southern Ave SE. Site was located along Oxon Run in the vicinity of the intersection of N. Huron Dr & Mohican Dr. in Oxon Hill, MD. Macroinvertebrates are small organisms without a backbone that can include bugs, worms, small crustaceans, etc. Macroinvertebrates are sampled because they tend to be a good indicator of the health of streams and wetlands.

Fish Sampling

The project team analyzed the fish populations at the same two locations that were looked at in the macroinvertebrate investigations. The fish sampling is performed by a certified crew that can safely and accurately document the quantity and quality of the fish population.

Macroinvertebrate & Fish Sampling Results

Overall, the fish and macroinvertebrate populations at Site 3 scored higher than in Site 1. Although Site 1 has tree cover and adjacent forest, it is experiencing greater erosion, has low quality riffle features, and is disconnected from the downstream resources (the concrete channel running through Oxon Run Park separates the two areas). Site 3 lacks a variety of habitat and tree cover, however it is ecologically connected to the Potomac River.

The first year of monitoring identified a number of species within Oxon Run, including American Eel, Redbreast Sunfish, Spottail Shiner, Blacknose Dace and Mummichog. It will be important to continue monitoring these locations over a three year period to observe and changes and create a greater understanding of the ecology of Oxon Run.

Tree Survey

Within the study area, the project team located and identified all existing trees with a diameter greater than 10". This robust catalogue includes the size, health, and species of ~1,200 trees.



What is a riffle?

A riffle is the part of a stream where the water is shallow and faster moving. This adds oxygen to the water, which helps support and sustain life within the stream.

In addition, the areas of a stream that are deep and slow-moving are called "pools". These areas provide habitat and shelter for a wide variety of fish and other living things.



Project Webpage

<https://www.oxonrunparkandstream.org/>



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Interested in signing up for project news and updates? Stay connected by signing up here:

<https://www.oxonrunparkandstream.org/>