

ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORK REPORTS PROGRESS ON NORTH CYPRESS RESTORATION PROJECT

The Greater Severna Park Watershed Action Group hosted a community presentation on June 11, 2009 from 7 – 9 PM by the Anne Arundel County Department of Public Works on the North Cypress Branch Stream and Wetland Restoration Project. This project is required as a result of the 2001 Cypress Creek Dredging Project and will stabilize nearly 3,000 feet of eroding stream channel encompassing the stream reach from Ritchie Highway downstream toward the tidal water interface. The goal is to minimize sediment erosion into Cypress Creek and, thereby, minimize the need for future dredging. However, the County has gone above the minimum requirements and incorporated much needed water quality improvements into the design. Carla Logan, Chairperson of the Watershed Action Group, said that “this project, which is one of the largest stream and wetland restoration projects in Anne Arundel County, will provide significant water quality benefits to North Cypress Branch and Cypress Creek, as well as improve wildlife habitat”. Dennis McMonigle, Project Manager with Anne Arundel County Department of Public Works, presented the restoration design, which has been reconfigured to minimize impacts to the surrounding community, and discussed the schedule of activities. Total construction costs are approximately \$1.8 million, funded by the County as well as the State Highway Administration. Groundbreaking is anticipated to begin during late summer 2010 with many preparatory activities taking place during the interim. During the next few months, the County will continue to work with the local residents to obtain the needed rights-of-way. The restoration design is available for viewing at www.gspwag.org.

The Greater Severna Park Watershed Action Group is an umbrella group formed to work with Anne Arundel County and the local community focusing on water quality improvements in Greater Severna Park. Watershed Action Group partners include the Greater Severna Park Chamber of Commerce, Greater Severna Park Council, Magothy River Association, Arnold Preservation Council, Anne Arundel County Department of Public Works, and Association for Severna Park Improvement, Renewal and Enhancement (ASPIRE). The Watershed Action Group meets monthly. The next meeting is August 6, 2009, 7:30 to 9:00 AM, McKinsey Park Condominiums, Community Room. New members are welcome.

Prepared by Carla M. Logan, Chairperson
Greater Severna Park Watershed Action Group