



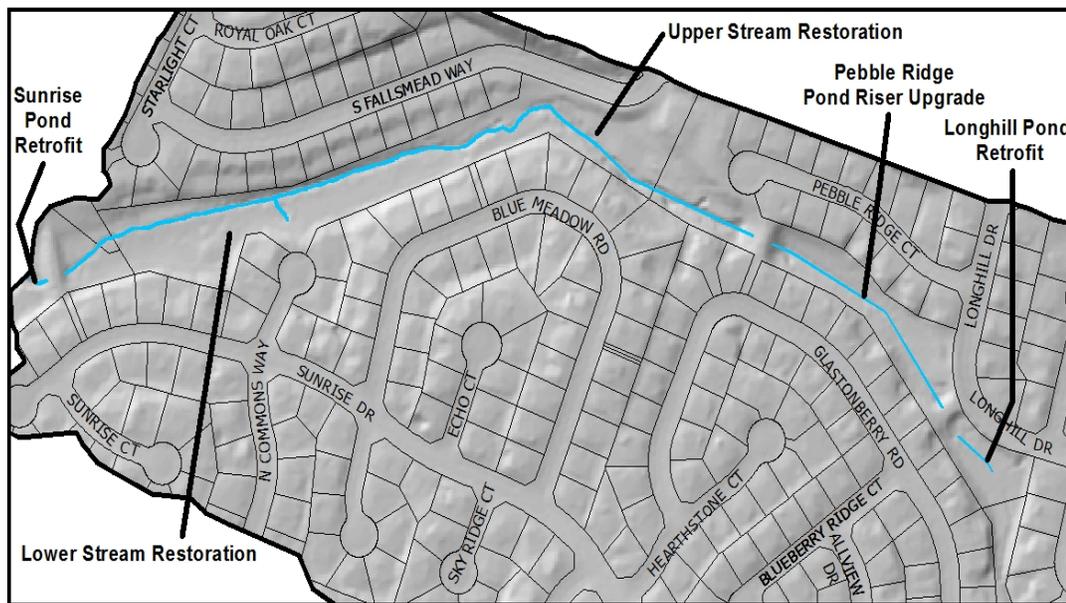
Horizon Hill Stormwater Management Project

The Horizon Hill Stormwater Management Project was recommended as a priority project in the 2001 Watts Branch Watershed Study to treat water quality and manage flooding from the 100-year storm for almost the entire 165-acre drainage area. The project includes upgrades to three existing stormwater management ponds (Sunrise, Pebble Ridge and Longhill ponds), stream restoration and park enhancements.

Community Open House

June 24, 2014, 6:30 p.m., City Hall Lower Lobby

Map



The 12.2-acre Horizon Hill Park consists of a stream and stormwater management facility surrounded by wooded areas, trails, playgrounds, and passive recreation.

Project Goals

- **Improve water quality** in the Watts Branch Watershed by replacing existing dry ponds, which currently do not provide treatment, with modernized ponds that provide water quality treatment for the “first flush” of 3/4 of an inch of rainfall, as well as channel protection storage to reduce downstream stormwater impacts.
- **Reduce flooding**, meeting current stormwater management and safety standards by safely managing the 100-year flood through upgrades to the existing ponds and dam embankments that were originally designed for the 50-year storm.
- **Stabilize and restore streams** to minimize stream erosion and reduce pollutant loads to downstream tributaries.
- **Protect existing utilities, private property and recreation areas** from erosion and flood damage.
- **Enhance aquatic and forest habitat** through plantings and removal of non-native and invasive vegetation.
- **Protect and improve active and passive park recreation features.**

Stormwater Management Project Description

- Convert three existing 1970s-era in-line dry pond stormwater management facilities into three modern stormwater management facilities. The upper and lower dry ponds will be converted to wet ponds with permanent, year-round water surfaces.
- Create 8,000 square feet of wetlands for enhanced stormwater treatment.
- Restore 1,300 linear feet of degraded and unstable streams using natural stream restoration techniques.
- Complete pond safety repairs and improvements, including removing trees from the dam embankments and relining the pond barrels.
- Enhance wetland and forest habitat by managing non-native invasive vegetation and planting:
 - More than 200 trees, including a wide variety of shade, ornamental and evergreens;
 - Approximately 1.5 acres of native shrubs in and around the pond edges and throughout the stream corridor; and
 - 64 species of high and low marsh vegetation on the perimeter of the ponds and floodplain.
- Relocate basketball court and trails to avoid flooding.
- Install new benches and pond fountains.

Horizon Hill Park Renovation Companion Project Description

As a result of community feedback at the January 30th meeting, the City created a Park Amenity Task Force to develop a companion park improvement project. These volunteers performed a comprehensive review of the park over the course of four evenings and provided the following recommendations for park upgrades:

- Replace existing wood chip mat surfaces at each of the three playgrounds with rubberized play surfaces.
- Install a “fitness cluster” of bodyweight workout equipment for adults.
- Enhance Sunrise Pond by constructing a stamped concrete patio with benches and a pergola on the top of the embankment and adding landscape boulders near the riprap to soften the impact of this feature.
- Install interpretive signing describing the function of the stormwater management.
- Widen the paths throughout the park to a standard five-foot width wherever possible.
- Install a new bike rack in the vicinity of the basketball court.
- Upgrade trash receptacles throughout the park.
- Install a railing for the stairway at the Sunrise Drive entrance to the park.

The City appreciates the efforts of this group which included attendance at the meetings, email communications, individual tours of City facilities, and preparation of conceptual sketches.

Schedule

Phase I SWM Emergency Repair – July 2014
 SWM Construction Bid Opening – July 9, 2014
 Mayor and Council Construction Award – August 2014
 SWM Construction – September 2014 to November 2015
 Phase II Park Renovation Design – Fiscal Year 2015
 Park Renovation Construction – Fiscal Year 2016

Estimated Costs

SWM Retrofit
 Design Costs – \$400,000
 Construction Costs – \$3.1 million*
Park Renovations
 Design Costs – \$15,000
 Construction Costs – \$235,000

*In recognition of the environmental benefits of this project, the City of Rockville was awarded a \$1 million grant by the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Trust Fund that is administered by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources to advance Maryland’s goals for restoring the Chesapeake Bay.

Stay Involved - www.rockvillemd.gov/horizonhillswm

SWM Project Contact: Gabe Kosarek, P.E., LEED AP, gkosarek@rockvillemd.gov, 240-314-8513
 Park Project Contact: Steve Mader, smader@rockvillemd.gov, 240-314-8702