

Friends of Daniels Run Park

NEWSLETTER

Ann Powel, Editor

*Join us for the Stream
Restoration Project
Sat. April 10 at 8:45 am.*

No. 8 March 1999.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED APRIL 10 !

FRIENDS TO PARTICIPATE IN STREAM RESTORATION PROJECT SAT. APRIL 10

Friends of Daniels Run Park has made an agreement with the City to provide volunteer labor for a stream restoration project which is being done on Ashby Creek, a tributary of Daniels Run on Saturday April 10. We will meet at 8:45 at the corner of Ashby and Barlow. Work will begin at 9:00 am. We will be planting trees, bushes and plants to stabilize the stream banks for a new meander which replaces a failed dam which needs to be removed. We will also be installing brush bundles to stabilize the banks further downstream in Daniels Run Park. Since this stream restoration is a joint community-city project, we hope to have as many volunteers from the community as possible. Please join us on April 10. To volunteer please call Ann Powel (352-3760). We will provide a bag lunch for volunteers and Don and Carmen Conard have invited us to eat lunch in their yard. They have a pond and a picnic table and chairs. Volunteers should bring a trowel and a spade or shovel. We will be assisted in the planting by members of EQR, a consulting firm hired by the city to dig the trench and replace the culverts. There will be no heavy equipment present while we are working. If time permits we will do some planting on the Estel Stream restoration as well. Please volunteer! **WE NEED YOUR HELP!** We want to show the City that the community is willing to turn out. Your volunteer labor will save the city some money and the success of this project will encourage the city to do more joint community-city projects. It will also be fun working outdoors. The rainday is Sunday April 11.

Call 352-3760 to Volunteer!

FRIENDS TO HELP RESTORE DANIELS RUN TRIBUTARY

We want to thank all those Friends who wrote letters to the Mayor and members of the City Council about the proposed stream restoration project in Daniels Run Park. Friends of Daniels Run Park President Chris Jones has spent many hours over the last year negotiating with City Engineer, Adrian Schagrin about the details of a stream restoration project to be done on Ashby Creek, a tributary of Daniels Run. FDRP hired its own engineer, Rich Claytor, to review the plans for the restoration submitted by Dewberry and Davis. Mr. Claytor generously donated most of his time. Mayor Mason led a walk through the park attended by a number of city staff, several Council members and FDRP members. FDRP members were especially concerned about the proposed cutting of 40 trees and the lining of the stream banks with rock riprap. The mayor asked Ms. Schagrin and FDRP President Jones to try to reach agreement on modifications to the plan. As part of that modification, Rich Claytor designed a meander to replace a dam which must be removed. In the new plan brush bundles and branch packings will be substituted for much of the rock riprap.

Biologs and other biological materials will hold the soil in place while plants are getting established. Implementing the project will involve a citizen effort to plant trees, bushes and plants and install other biological materials to stabilize the banks. Ann Powel, Chris Jones, and Diane and Bruce Berndt went to Gaithersburg to pick out the stone to be used in this project in place of rock riprap.

FRIENDS PARTICIPATE IN FALL FESTIVAL

Thanks to our wonderful volunteers FDRP participated in the Fall Festival this year. Special thanks go to Bruce and Diane Berndt for their work on our booth. It looked great! Many thanks also to Molly Dias who recruited the volunteers. Thanks to Bruce, Diane, Molly, Melissa Stanley, Keith Sovine, Bob Gideon, Tara Griffin, Ann Powel, Chris Jones, Carolyn Williams and Sharon Chang who worked at the booth.

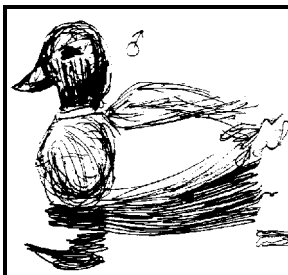
Visit our new website:

<http://osf1.gmu.edu/~rcjones/friends.htm>

SCOUTS DO WINTER CLEANUP

Did you notice how clean the park looked this winter? We would like to thank members of Cub Scout Pack 882, Fourth Grade group from Layton Hall School, who cleaned up trash in Daniels Run Park in January. We understand they sorted the trash at leader Paul Kohlbrenner's house and that they recycled some of it. Thanks, scouts, for taking such good care of our park!

PARK CLEANUP SCHEDULED for APRIL 24. Friends of Daniels Run Park and Little River Hills Civic Association will cosponsor our annual park cleanup day on April 24. Meet at the Estel Rd. or



Queen Anne Entrance at 8:30 am.. We will also be continuing brush bundle installation on Ashby. Coffee will be served at Marianne Vakiener's house at 9803 Barlow Rd. at 10:00 am.

Friends of Daniels Run Park

FDRP is a group of citizens dedicated to preserving Daniels Run Park in a natural state. To that end we sponsor clean-ups, provide information to our members, and promote environmental quality as it affects our park, the City of Fairfax, and the region. We invite anyone concerned with preserving and enhancing our natural environment to join with us. Dues are \$3 for Family membership and \$10 for Sustaining membership. Checks may be made payable to Friends of Daniels Run Park and sent to 3517 Queen Anne Dr., Fairfax, VA 22030. For more information, call 352-3760.

PROPOSED BELTWAY WIDENING DRAWS CONCERN

Concern for the 12-laning of the Beltway is widespread. Despite short notice, 1300 citizens came out for 4 meetings on consecutive Tuesdays. The second meeting in Shreveview was packed with 800 people, drawing 4 TV stations and several reporters. County and VDOT spokespersons were peppered with hardhitting comments and questions. People have raised valid questions about the narrow choice of options (especially the lack of rail options) the decision to prepare an Environmental Assessment rather than an Environmental Impact Statement, effects on property values and the process of condemnation, the impacts on schools and on intersecting roadways, cut-through traffic, air pollution, noise, and many other issues.

One of the options is separating lanes into local and through lanes using jersey walls as was done with I-270 in Maryland. Another option is jersey wall-separated HOV lanes.

Widening the Beltway to 12-lanes would require removal of the tree buffer all around the Beltway and condemnation of many homes. Supervisor Dana Kauffman has suggested that a 10-lane Beltway with transit is a viable option which would not require the same level of environmental destruction as the 12-lane widening.

If you have questions about the Beltway widening you can talk to Paul Hughes (280-1719) or Roger Diedrich (352-2410). Your views on plans for Beltway widening should be sent to our local elected officials including Mayor John Mason at City Hall in Fairfax 22030, County Board Chairman Katherine Hanley, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, VA 22035 and/or Providence District Supervisor Gerald Connolly, 8739 Lee Highway, Fairfax, VA 22031.

CLIFF FAIRWEATHER LEADS STREAM WALK

The Audubon Naturalist Society's Cliff Fairweather led a stream walk on November 22 in Daniels Run Park sponsored by Friends of Daniels Run Park. Cliff talked about the physical processes which shape streams and how this is impacted by suburban development. The types and variety of stream fauna are influenced by erosion and pollution that is found in suburban streams. While Daniels Run Park remains relatively undisturbed forest, the drainage area for the stream includes subdivisions, shopping centers, and new developments stretching up through Farrcroft, and Old Town to City Hall and Crestmont. This has greatly reduced the diversity of life in Daniels Run. Cliff walked up the sewer right of way and talked about the condition of the stream all the way up to the soccer field behind Layton Hall School. He suggested that the sewer right of way would provide better habitat for animals and birds if the grass were allowed to grow and become a meadow. Last summer the Department of Public Works mowed the right of way every two weeks. This was far more frequently than the Parks Department had mowed it in the past. Mowing only needs to be done once a year to keep out trees. Much of this area is a wet meadow. Wetland plants such as horsetail (*Equisetum* sp.) grow there. In the spring this area is covered with wild flowers. Cliff suggested that the stream would benefit from

extending the vegetated buffer along the stream banks. Particularly, behind the school he felt the area not being mowed should be widened to provide a vegetated buffer.

Publications Available

We have collected limited stocks of publications on lawn management, clean air which are available free of charge to FDRP members.

A few of the representative titles are:

You and Your Land: A Homeowner's Guide for the Potomac River Watershed. An extensive 78 page guide to enlightened yard care with sections on soils, landscaping, rain gardens, pest control, composting, and more. Produced by Potomac Valley Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

Rain Gardens. The Natural Solution. Brochure describing how to channel runoff from your house and yard to create a pocket wetland which protects our local streams from excessive flooding. Prince George's County Department of Environmental Resources. (A similar, but more abbreviated brochure is available from Virginia Department of Forestry).

Ozone Action Days. Air Quality Forecast and Action Guide. Flyer describing how to help decrease unhealthy air and how to avoid exposure during ozone alerts. Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments.

Call 352-3760 and we'll arrange to get you a copy.