



City of Falls Church Village Preservation and Improvement Society
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February 14, 2006

Mayor Daniel Gardner and Falls Church City Council Members
City Hall, Falls Church, Va. 22046

Dear Mayor Gardner and City Council Members:

About six years ago, the City of Falls Church “daylighted” a small portion of Four Mile Run during the building of the new Fire Station. This formerly piped section of Four Mile Run was removed primarily to reduce the size of the flood plain up to North Washington Street. As those of you who have walked the area have seen, the daylighting of the stream created a very nice walking area along the open stream (although the path could be better maintained). In addition, daylighting streams has environmental benefits, decreasing pollution and encouraging the development of healthy wildlife and waterlife in the stream

The Falls Church Village Preservation and Improvement Society recommends that City Council place the daylighting of other streams in the City as a high priority in the upcoming budget. Daylighting more piped streams promises to greatly improve flooding and water quality conditions in the City, as well as the recreational enjoyment by our citizens.

There are two piped streams that may soon present daylighting opportunities for the City. The first is Tripps Run as it flows through Roberts Park. The second is the Harrison Branch of Four Mile Run as it flows in a pipe for 75 yard through Crossman Park from the end of East Jefferson Street and empties into Four Mile Run from an exposed 5 foot metal pipe, just upstream of Van Buren Street. Both of these piped stream sections have long since outlived the expected lifespan of the pipes and there are economic and safety risks in any delay of their replacement. Daylighting those streams, rather than repairing the pipes, may have economic advantages.

The Village Preservation and Improvement Society, founded in 1885, is a nonprofit citizen volunteer organization in the City of Falls Church, Virginia. The Society is comprised of concerned citizens who address many important issues that face our community. The Society works to preserve our natural and built environment, historic structures and landmarks, and promotes cultural activities. Members are primarily residents of the City of Falls Church and former residents or neighbors who have an interest in Falls Church City. Members are of all political persuasions and are bonded by their interest in and a commitment to improving the City of Falls Church.

VPIS is confident that daylighting more streams will provide the citizens of the City a more natural and healthy environment to enjoy. It may also reduce the cost and danger of flooding that affects many of our residential properties.

Sincerely,



Barry Buschow; President; VPIS



Jeff Peterson, Vice President and Chair,
Design Development Committee

Letter approved by vote of the VPIS Board of Directors February 9, 2006

cc: City of Falls Church City Council
City of Falls Church Planning Commission
City of Falls Church Environmental Services Council