

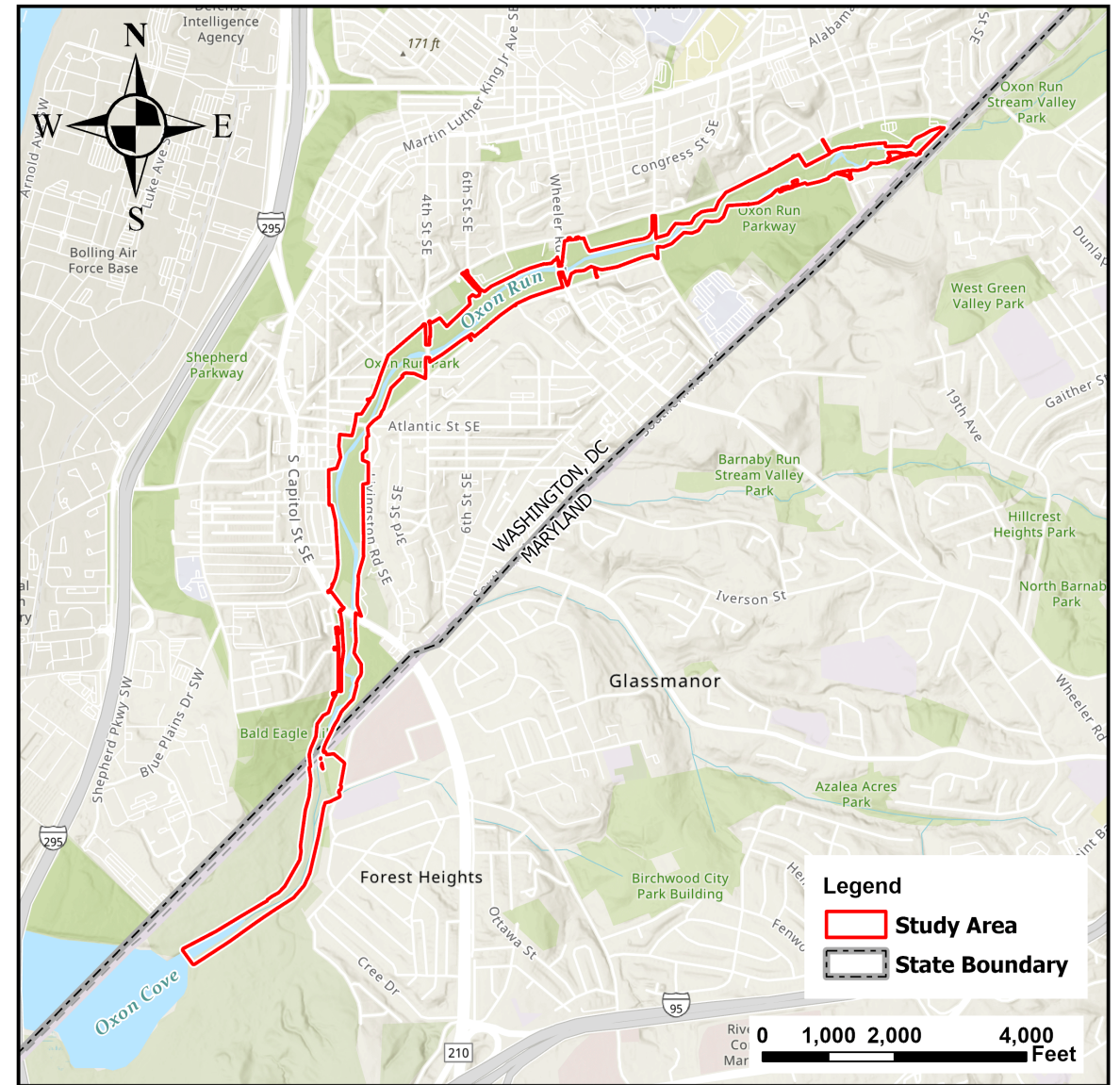
Oxon Run Stream and Wetland Restoration Project

Public Scoping Meeting – June 11, 2026



Introduction

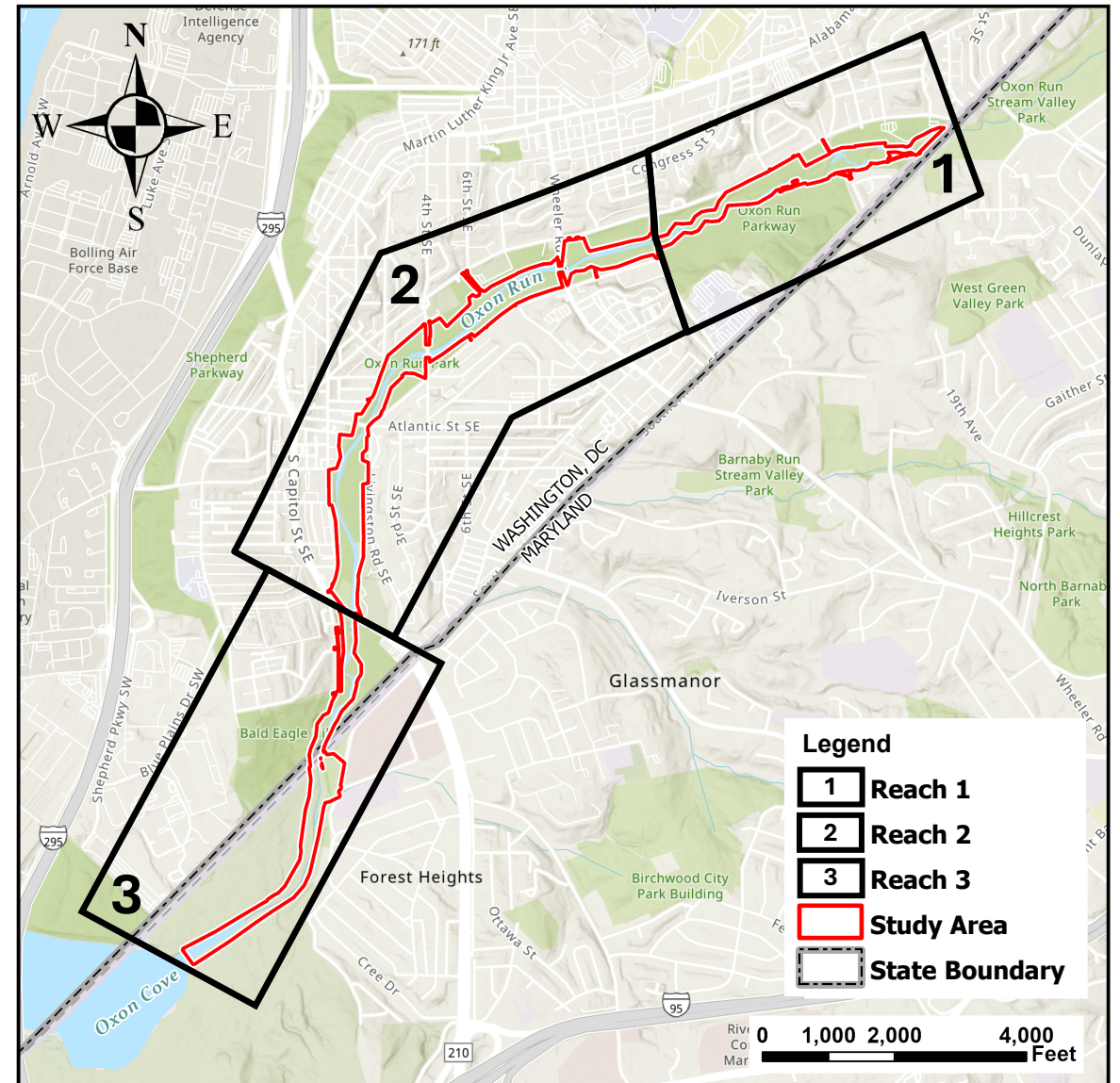
The **D.C. Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE)** and the **D.C. Water and Sewer Authority (DC Water)**, in partnership with the **National Park Service (NPS)**, are proposing stream restoration, sewer line improvements, and other associated activities on Oxon Run. The proposed Oxon Run Stream Restoration Project is located in southeast Washington, D.C. The project involves the restoration of Oxon Run from Southern Ave. and Mississippi Ave. SE in Washington, D.C. to Oxon Cove in Prince George's County, Maryland.



Map depicts aerial view surrounding the project location and the outlined study area depicts the project limits for where stream, sewer and park improvements will occur.

Stream Reach Descriptions

- **Reach 1:** Begins at the downstream side of Southern Ave and extends to the beginning of the concrete channel, located adjacent to 13th Street SE.
- **Reach 2:** Begins at the existing concrete channel, adjacent to 13th Street SE and extends to the upstream side of South Capitol St SW.
- **Reach 3:** Begins at the downstream side of South Capitol St SW and extends to the tidal influence of the Potomac River at the Oxon Hill Farm Trail bridge.



Map of the Oxon Run study area identifying stream reaches numbered 1, 2, and 3, their limits, and proposed improvements.

Oxon Run

May 2, 1915



Historic image of park users crossing a stream within Oxon Run Park.

Present Day 2026



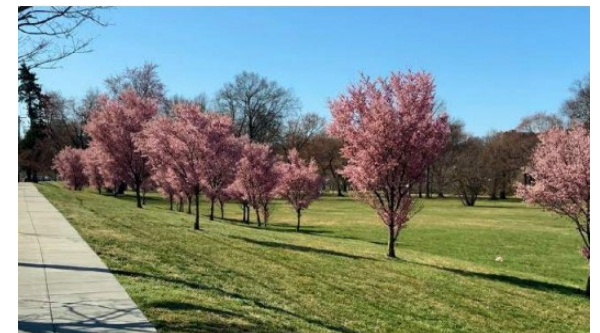
Present day image of a community group exploring a section of the concrete channel section of Oxon Run.



Present day image of a community group exploring a section of a natural stream section of Oxon Run.

Oxon Run History

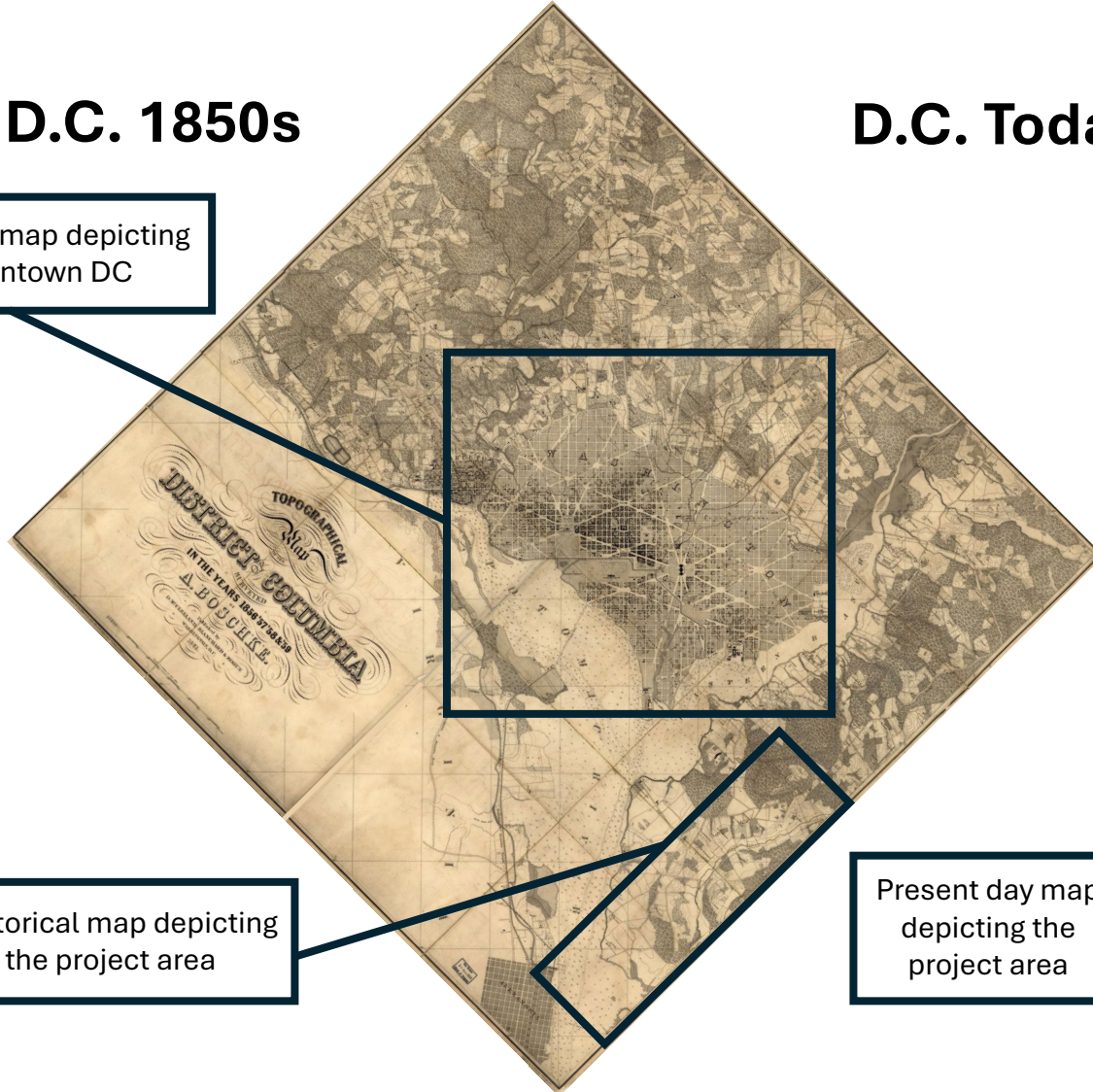
- Pre-1600: The Nacochtank tribe populates the area
- Post-1600: European settlers overtake Nacochtank lands
- John Addison, from Oxford, England, names house Oxon Hall/ Oxon Manor
- 1904: Military firing range opens as part of Camp Sims
- 1914: Sunday Star writes “idea to turn the valley of Oxon Run into a park, a people’s play and rest ground...”
- 1939: NCPC began to purchase strips of land along Oxon Run
- 1971: Land between 13th St and South Capitol St was placed under the D.C. government as Oxon Run Park
- 1972: Tropical Storm Agnes causes flooding
- 1978: 7,900 ft of concrete stream channel construction
- 2022: Stream design and Park Plan contract issued



Oxon Run Watershed

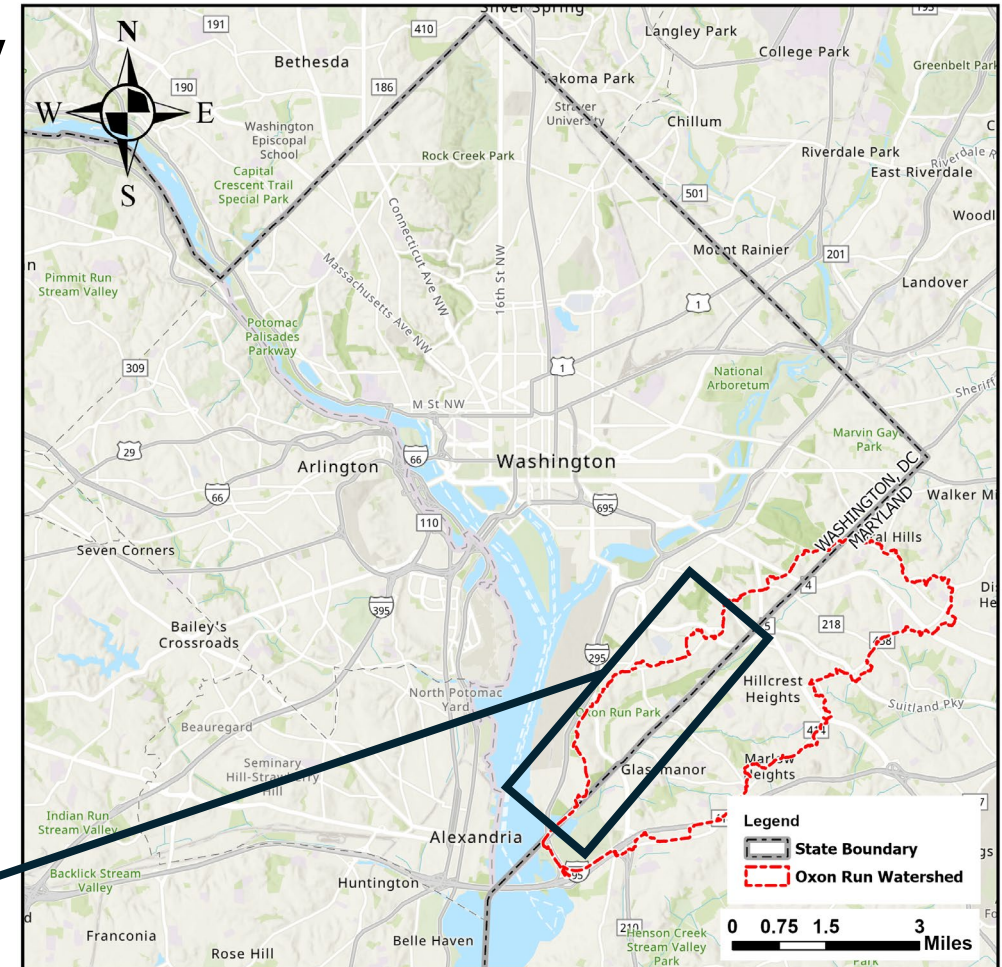
D.C. 1850s

Historic map depicting downtown DC



D.C. Today

Present day map depicting the project area

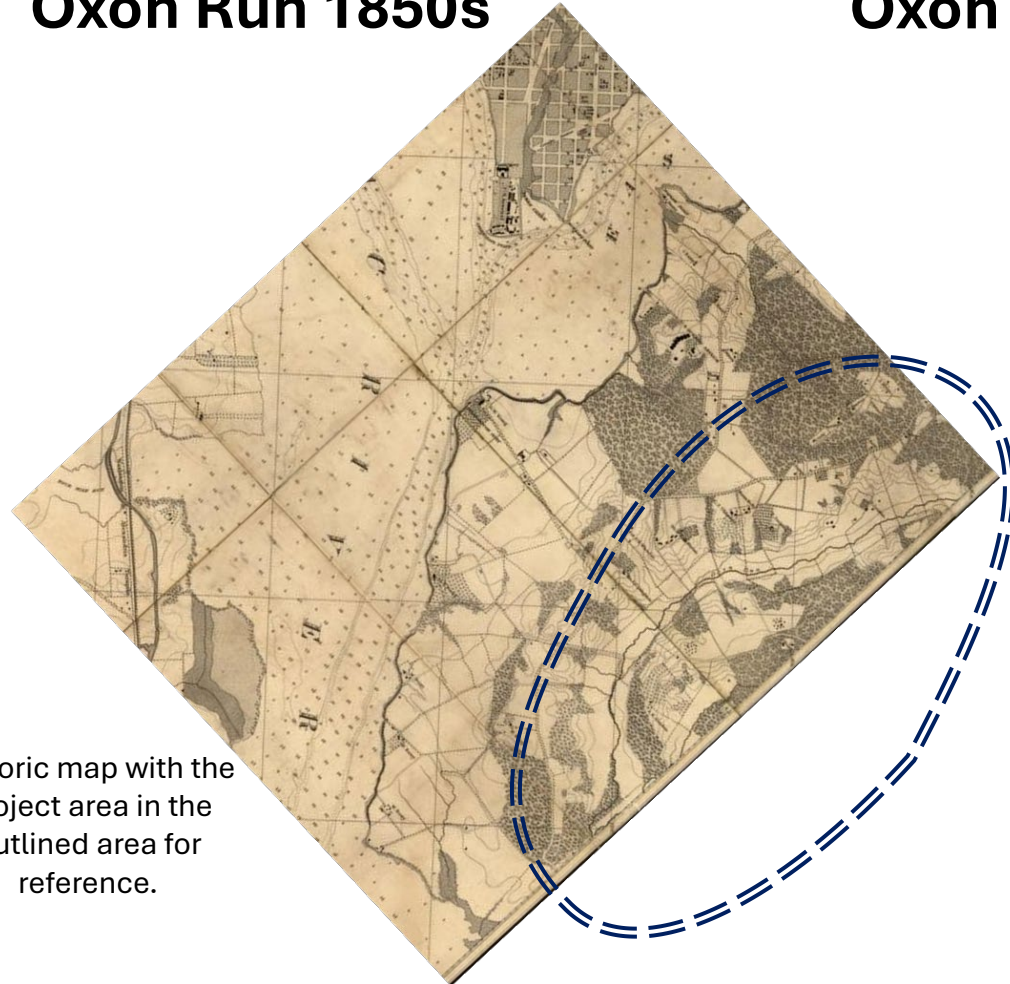


Present day map depicting downtown DC and the project area

In addition, the drainage area to the Oxon Run Watershed is shown in the dashed boundary line.

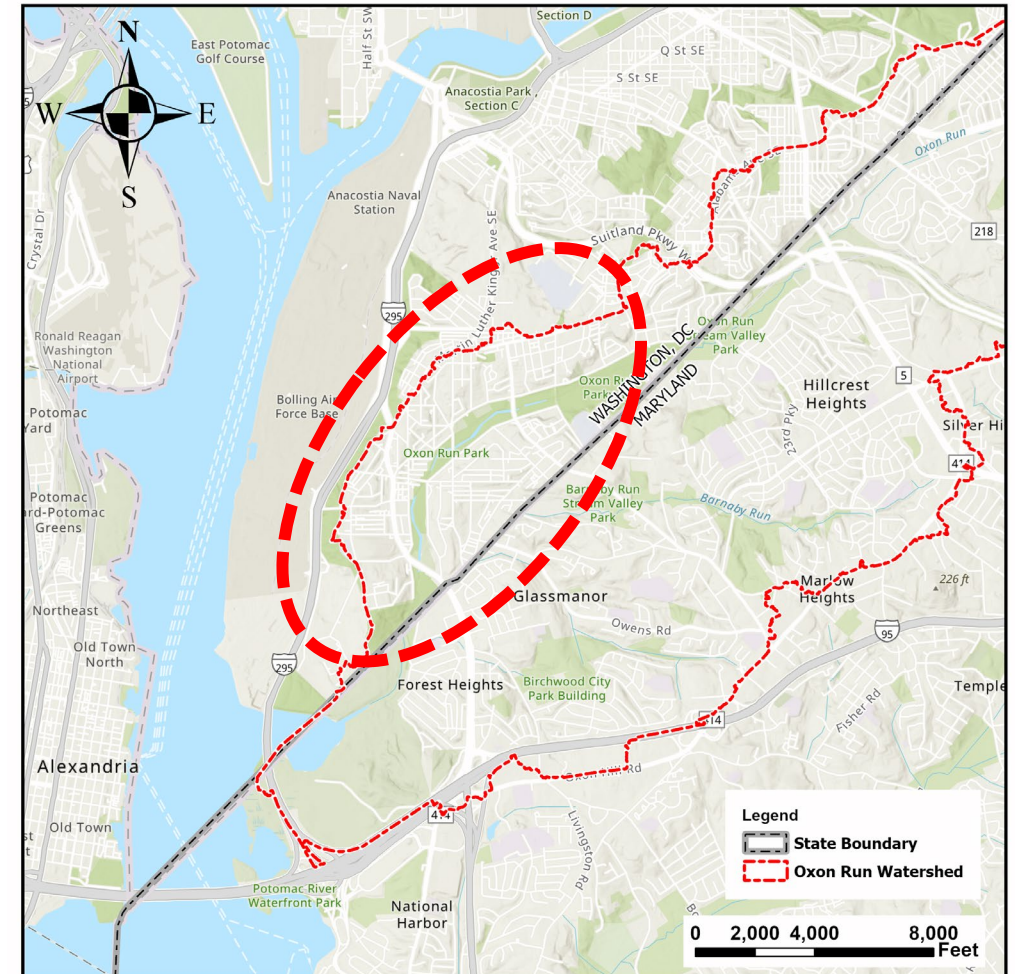
Oxon Run Watershed

Oxon Run 1850s



Historic map with the project area in the outlined area for reference.

Oxon Today



The present-day map again depicts the project area. In addition, the drainage area within the Oxon Run Watershed is highlighted, indicating the project location.

Existing Conditions – Stream Bank Erosion



Severe stream bank erosion along Oxon Run near the Valley Terrace neighborhood. The stream bank is vertically undercut, with exposed soil and tree roots extending over the water surface.

Loss of bank stability is evident along the channel edge, indicating ongoing erosion and potential risk to vegetation and nearby residential properties.

Existing Conditions – Exposed Sewer Lines in Reach 1 and Reach 3



Exposed sewer infrastructure and streambank erosion (observed along Oxon Run near the Valley Terrace neighborhood.)

Existing Conditions – Channelization



Existing concrete channelization of Oxon Run limits lacking natural stream function and habitat value.

Existing Conditions – Channelization



Existing concrete-lined channel in Oxon Run depicting surface deterioration and undermining due to weathering and erosion.

Existing Conditions – Dam/Fish Blockage



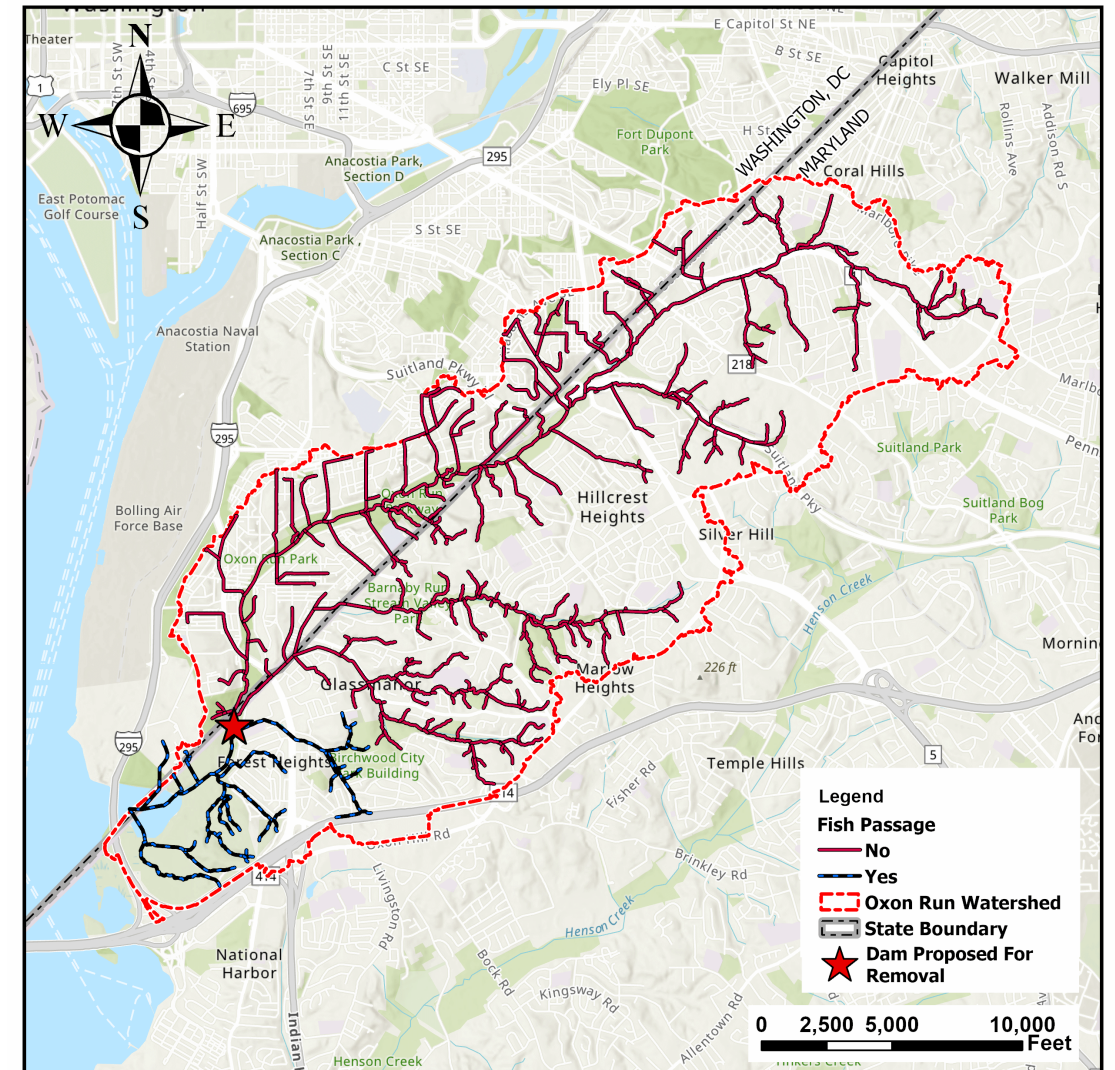
Existing dam within Oxon Run downstream of South Capitol Street. The dam is a physical barrier to aquatic organisms trying to move upstream.

Existing Conditions – Dam/Fish Blockage

Removing the dam could potentially open miles of stream to fish passage.*

*An assessment of current blockages has not been undertaken to determine the exact extent of the stream that would be opened

Map depicts Oxon Run main stem and tributaries within the Oxon Run watershed. Stream segments are categorized by whether fish passage is currently available or blocked, and the map identifies the dam proposed for removal.



Existing Conditions – Fish Survey Conditions



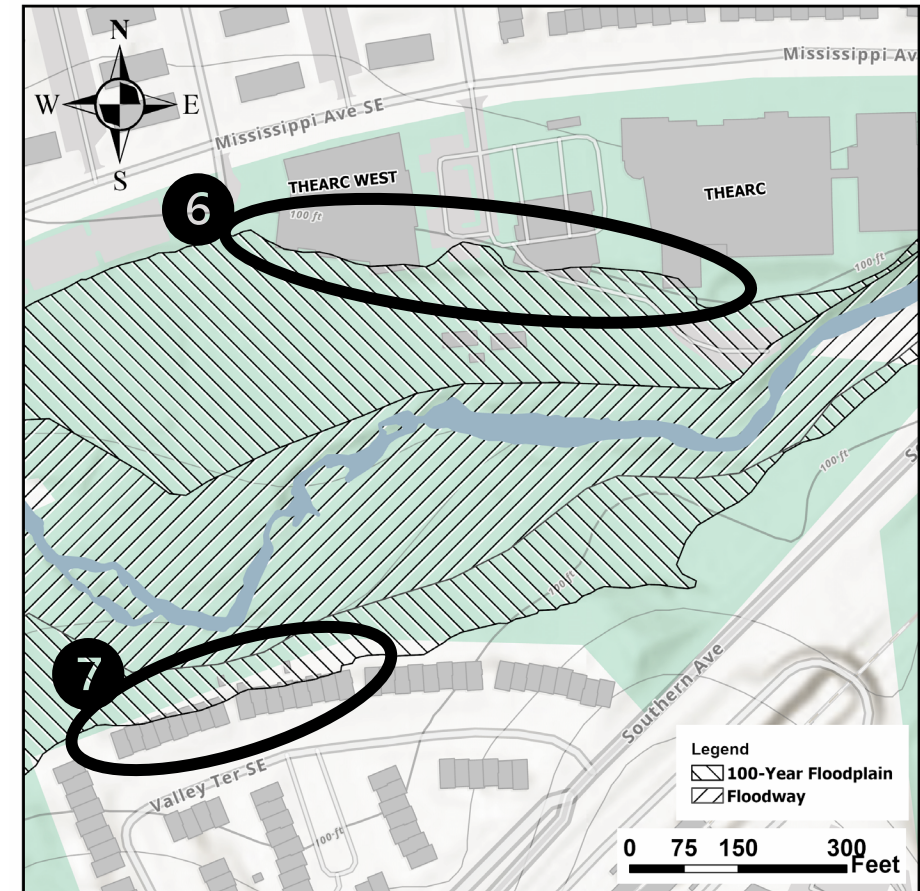
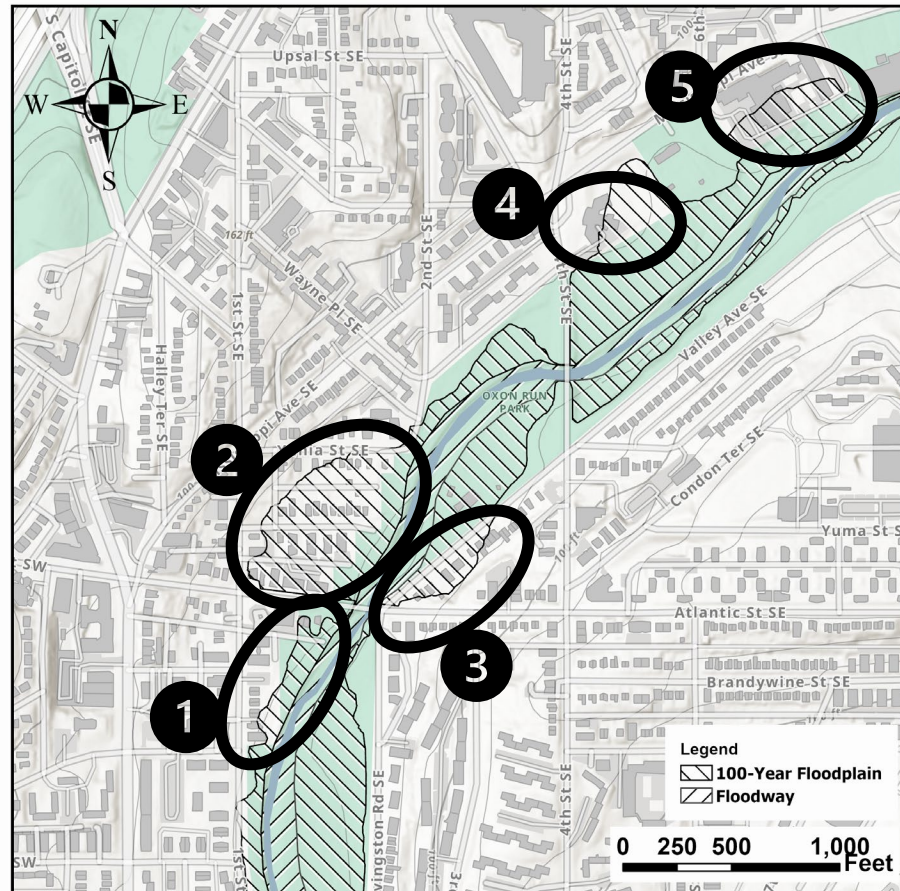
Images of typical fish species sampled within Oxon Run downstream of the dam and upstream of 13th Street.

Existing Conditions – Wetlands & Seeps



Existing wetland seep along Oxon Run upstream of the concrete channel and on National Park Service lands.

Existing Conditions – Homes and Schools within the 100 Year Floodplain



Maps depicting examples numbered 1 through 7 of existing residential and educational facility buildings located within the 100 Year floodplain boundary.

Existing Conditions – Trash



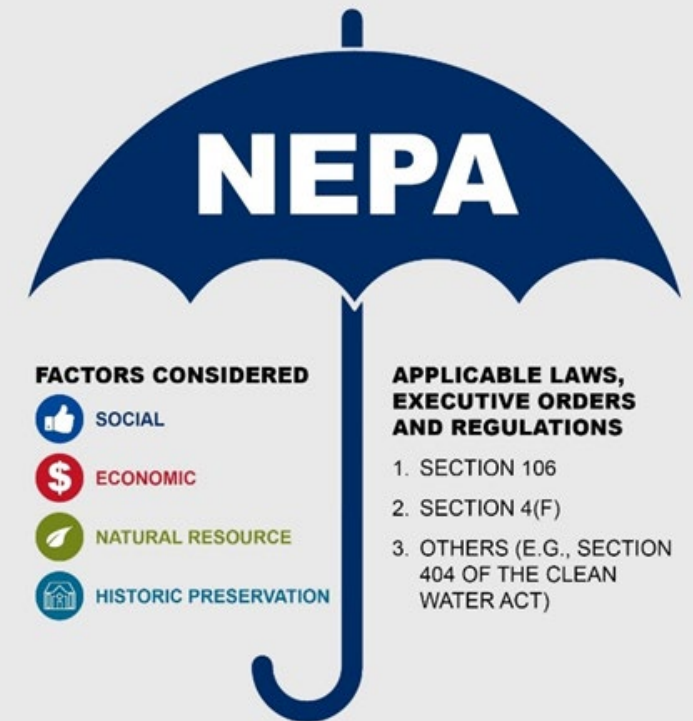
Trash accumulating within the channel and floodplain of Oxon Run upstream of the concrete channel and within National Park Service lands.

NEPA Overview

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 established a national policy for the protection of the environment

- Requires federal agencies to evaluate the potential environmental impacts that could result from a proposed action
- Engages the public in the decision-making process
- Goal is to inform decision makers and the public of potential environmental impacts before a decision is made
- Goal is to avoid, minimize, resolve, or mitigate effects to natural resources

Managing NEPA Decision-Making



Section 106 of the NHPA Overview

For federal undertakings or federal assisted projects, federal agencies must complete a National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) Section 106 review

- Consider effects of a proposed action on historic properties including archeological sites
- Consult with state historic preservation officers, tribes, and other consulting parties
- Avoid, minimize, resolve, or mitigate adverse effects to historic properties and archeological sites

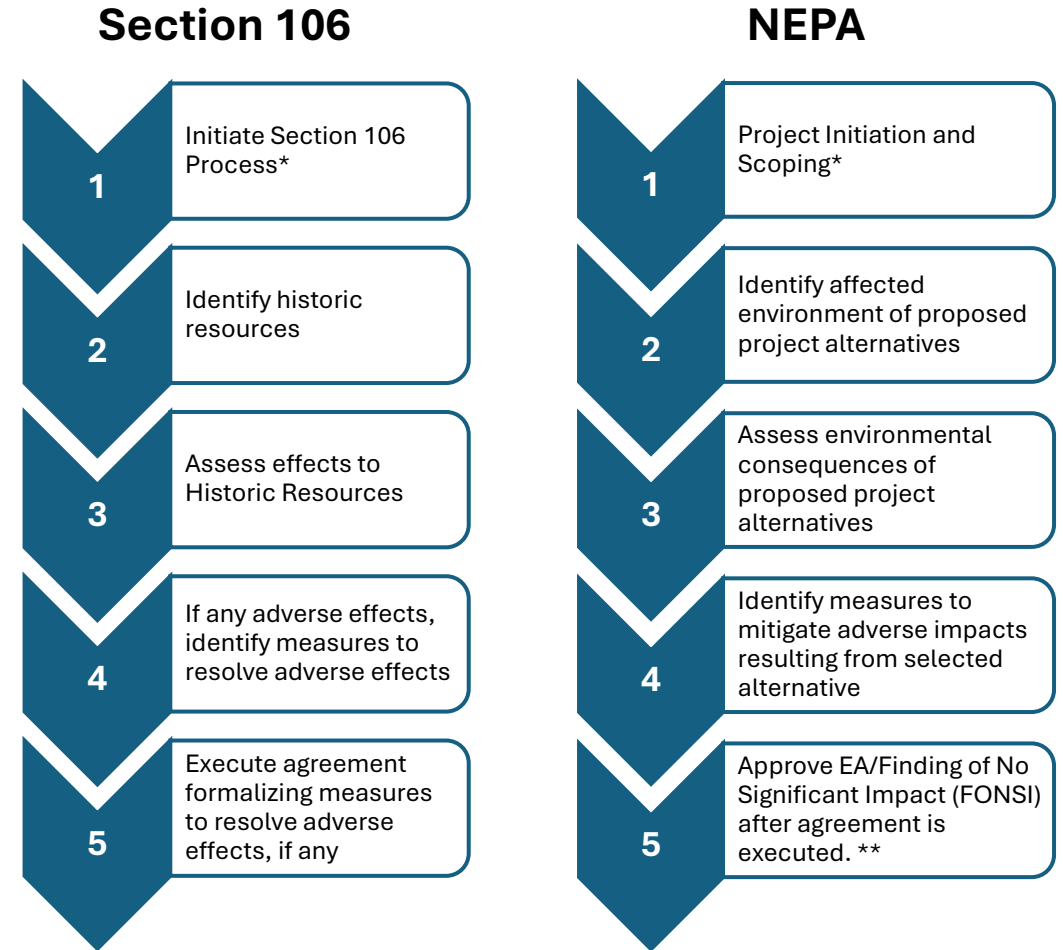


Section 106 and NEPA

NEPA and NHPA require Federal officials to "stop, look, and listen" before making decisions that impact historic properties and the natural and human environment.

Coordinate steps to provide efficiency, public understanding, and more informed decisions.

Plan public participation, analysis, and review so they can meet the purposes and requirements of both statutes efficiently



* Section 106 public engagement efforts should be integrated with public engagement associated with the preparation of the EA.

** If the EA identifies any unmitigated significant impacts, an Environmental Impact Statement would be prepared.

Purpose and Need

Purpose

To restore a more naturalized state to the stream, thereby restoring natural hydrology, preventing erosion and improving sediment transport, protecting infrastructure, improving public access to the stream corridor, reducing flood risk, improving water quality and creating wildlife habitat, and protecting the critically rare magnolia bog ecosystem.

Need

The project is needed due to pressures from stormwater run-off, erosion, climate change, and various historic impacts that have degraded the ecological state of Oxon Run. These adverse impacts have caused severe bank erosion, created an unstable geomorphic form, resulting in exposed or damaged sewer lines and other infrastructure, increased flooding, and increased pressure on high-quality habitats

Restoration Approaches – Sewer Line Improvements in Reaches 1, 2, and 3



Sewer Infrastructure in Stream- Before



Sewer Infrastructure in Stream- After

Restoration Design Approach – Construction Access



Narrow Access Corridor through Forest



Access via Stream Channel

Stream Restoration- 2016



Floodplain reconnection stream restoration project during construction. Trees had been felled for access and to create lower floodplain benches. Church building shown as a consistent reference point for comparing vegetation site conditions across annual photographs.

Stream Restoration- 2016



Completed stream restoration project. Church building shown as a consistent reference point for comparing vegetation site conditions across annual photographs.

2017



A completed stream restoration project. Church building shown as a consistent reference point for comparing vegetation site conditions across annual photographs.

2018



Photograph of a completed stream restoration project. Church building shown as a consistent reference point for comparing vegetation site conditions across annual photographs.

2018



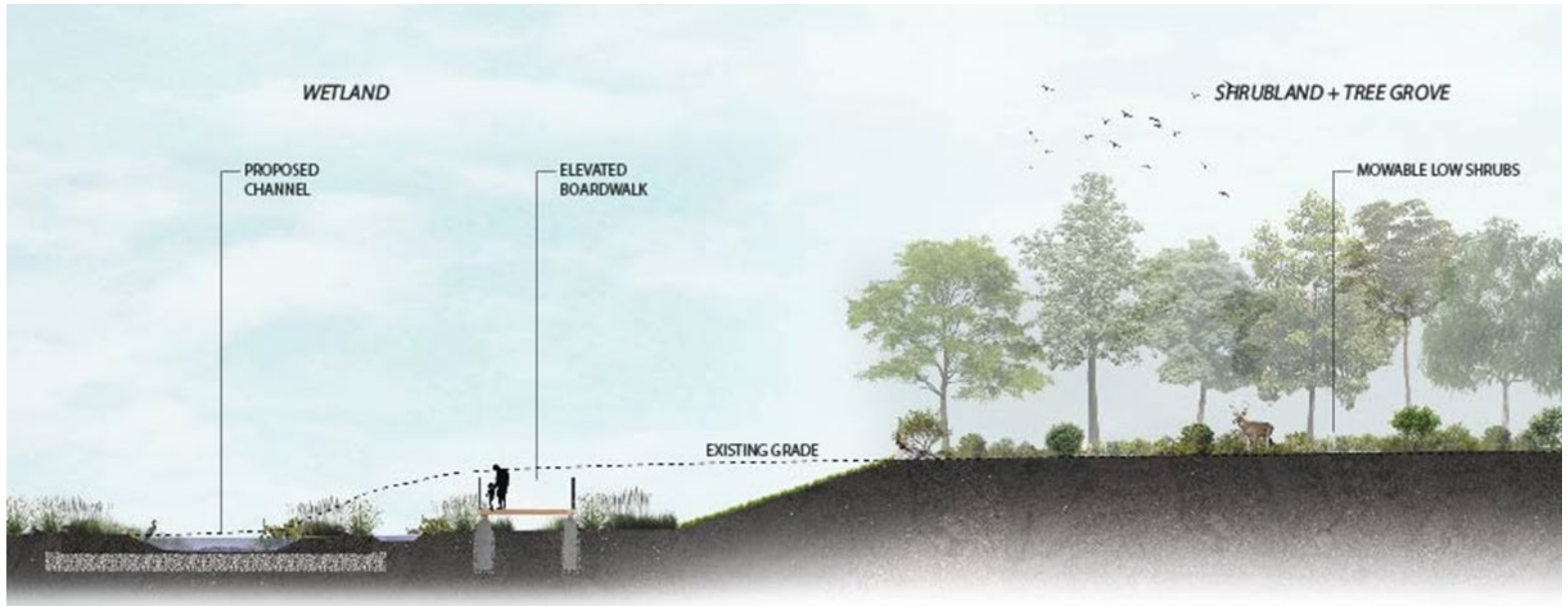
A completed stream restoration project. Church building shown as a consistent reference point for comparing vegetation site conditions across annual photographs.

2020



Photograph of a completed stream restoration project. Church building shown as a consistent reference point for comparing vegetation site conditions across annual photographs.

Restoration Approaches – Floodplain Benches and In-Stream Structures in Reaches 1, 2, and 3



Rendering of proposed stream and floodplain conditions (cross-section view).

Restoration Approaches – Stream and Wetland Plantings



Example project after restoration-2018

Restoration Approaches – Stream and Wetland Plantings



Example project after restoration-2024

Restoration Approaches – Trash Traps



Trash traps are constructed devices that catch trash that floats down a stream. These traps are cleaned out regularly and will collect trash in Oxon Run and prevent trash from making it downstream to Oxon Cove, the Potomac River, and the Chesapeake Bay.

Restoration Approaches – Dam Removal



Representative image of excavator removing a shallow concrete dam.

Restoration Approaches – Recreational Improvements

Active and Passive Recreation Options are being evaluated along the Oxon Run Corridor as part of the Oxon Run Park Master Plan. Recreational Options being considered include:

- Sports facilities- Baseball fields/Basketball Courts/Soccer fields/Tennis Courts
- Natural Recreational Opportunities- Food forests, gardens, Fishing docks, water access, trails
- Recreation Programming Space- Outdoor classroom, Amphitheater, Pavilion space, Picnic areas, Outdoor games



Next Steps/Tentative Project Schedule

DOEE and NPS are preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) to document the analysis of potential environmental impacts of the proposed stream and wetland restoration project in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

Activity	Timeframe
Public Scoping Period (Begins NEPA process)	June 11 – July 11, 2026
Prepare EA Document	July 2026 – September 2026
EA Public Review	September 2026 – October 2026
NPS Decision	October 2026 – November 2026
Final Design	January – February 2027
Construction	2028 – 2038

Thanks for your participation!

Please contact Josh with any questions or concerns regarding the proposed Oxon Run Stream and Wetland Restoration Project.

DOEE Project Manager:

Josh Burch, Environmental Protection Specialist

Phone: (202) 734-9527

Email: josh.burch@dc.gov

We thank you for your participation and appreciate your feedback on this project that will benefit the people, fauna, flora, and waters of the District of Columbia!

How to Comment

Online:

[Submit comments on the Oxon Run Stream Restoration Project](#)

Website: https://parkplanning.nps.gov/%20OXRU_stream

U.S. Mail:

Attn: Oxon Run Stream & Wetland Restoration Project
Comments
National Capital Parks – East
1900 Anacostia Drive, SE
Washington, DC 20020.

Comments must be submitted online or postmarked by July 11, 2026 to receive consideration.

Please Note: Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment – including your personal identifying information – may be made publicly available at any time.

While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.