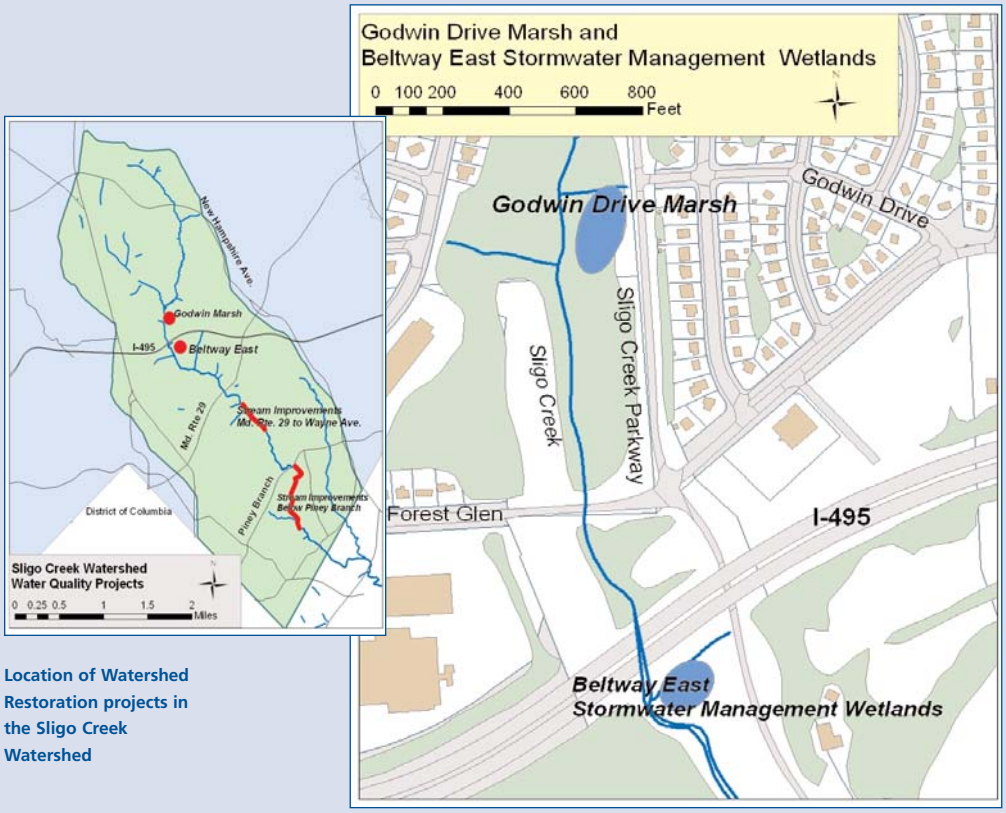
Watershed Restoration FACTSHEET:
Godwin Marsh and Beltway East Stormwater Management Wetland Creation in the Sligo Creek Watershed



Location of Watershed Restoration projects in the Sligo Creek Watershed

Godwin Marsh Project Facts:

Drainage Area: 28 Acres,
Imperviousness: 26%
Wetland Size: .2 Acre
Property Ownership: Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission
Goals:
To enhance wildlife habitat and provide additional water quality benefits for the Sligo Creek watershed by the creation of a .2 acre wetland

Beltway East Project Facts

Drainage Area: 12.37 Acres
Imperviousness: 14%
Wetland Size: .2 Acre
Goals:
To reduce non-point source pollution loading associated with the runoff from the Capital Beltway (I-495) and other facilities through the construction of an extended detention type wetland.
Construction Costs for the Godwin Marsh and the Beltway East Storm Water Management Wetland:
$205,000
Funded in part through Maryland Department of the Environment
Completed 1999.
For complete technical and professional specifications, visit www.askdep.com/

Watershed Restoration in Sligo Creek

The Anacostia Watershed Agreement of 1987 committed local and state agencies to restore aquatic habitat and water quality in streams that were seriously degraded by uncontrolled stormwater runoff from prior urbanization. Montgomery County is comitted to meet the goals of the agreement by constructing pollution controls for urban stormwater and restoring stream habitat conditions to support a variety of aquatic species and wildlife.

The Sligo Creek Watershed is one of four major watersheds draining to the Anacostia River. In 1999, Montgomery County partnered with the Maryland-National Park and Planning Commission and the Metropolitan Council of Governments to identify and prioritize six watershed restoration projects in the Sligo Creek watershed. The Godwin Marsh and Beltway East stormwater wetlands were top priority projects in the Sligo Creek restoration initiative.

More information on the Anacostia Watershed Agreement and watershed restoration efforts in the Sligo Creek Watershed can be found at **askdep.com** or by contacting the Department of Environmental Protection Watershed Management Division at 240.777.7712.

Restoration Goals in Sligo Creek

The goals of watershed restoration in the Sligo Creek Watershed are primarily to improve stormwater management controls and create stormwater wetlands, reduce stream bank erosion, restore lost aquatic habitat,

reintroduce native species of plants and animals, and monitor the success of the restoration efforts.

The Godwin Marsh and Beltway East stormwater management wetlands were constructed to intercept, detain, and filter runoff from storm drain outfalls which previously discharged directly into Sligo Creek. The projects created depressions in existing floodplains to capture storm drain flows and release discharges through weirs which maintain water levels capable of supporting wetland habitat. The constructed wetlands were designed, in part, to recreate habitat for amphibians and reptiles, lost through development in the Sligo Creek Watershed. Amphibians made use of the newly created habitat during the droughts of 1999-2000, when parts of Sligo Creek dried up and became a series of isolated pools. The wetlands have also provided important habitat for other species such as waterfowl.

The Beltway East stormwater manangement wetland provides stormwater control in addition to wetland habitat

Fish reintroduction into Sligo Creek

The Godwin Marsh creates a shallow wetland, creating habitat and providing water quality benefits

Restoration Success in the Sligo Creek Watershed

Since 1990, over a dozen watershed restoration projects were built in the Sligo Creek Watershed to add new stormwater runoff controls to 1,359 acres of upper watershed drainage, and restore habitat features in five miles of stream. The Sligo Creek watershed posed challenges, as many of the important headwater tributaries have been piped, or eliminated.

When restoration began, only two species of fish remained in Montgomery County's portion of Sligo Creek. County biologists and citizen groups have worked to reintroduce native fish species, and 11 species are now known to be present. Post-restoration monitoring has also shown a dramatic improvement in aquatic insect communities.

follow web link for more information see online glossary **www.askdep.com/watershed_glossary.htm**

For more information:

Contact: Pam Parker, 240.777.7712, pamela.parker@montgomerycountymd.gov
Department of Environmental Protection / Division of Watershed Management
255 Rockville Pike, Suite 120, Rockville, MD 20850

askDEP.com
We've got answers!