

# RIVERDALE PARK

## Stormwater Management (Wells Run, Field of Dreams)

With its location along the banks of the Northeast Branch of the Anacostia River, the Town of Riverdale Park (TRP) takes stormwater management seriously. The Town Council has ongoing discussions about the [Watershed Management recommendations](#) presented and submitted to the Town Council by the University of Maryland Capstone class in 2017. The Town Council is having discussions to formally adopt a resolution to enact the recommendations in this report or something similar in Fall 2020. In recent years, TRP has worked closely with the developers of the Cafritz property (Riverdale Park Station) to ensure that stormwater retention features have been incorporated into this significant construction project. [The development's website](#) specifically includes information on stormwater improvements related to Wells Run.

In addition, TRP frequently partners with local environmental groups, such as the Anacostia Watershed Society (AWS), to organize Earth Day Cleanups to remove trash and other debris from Anacostia tributaries. Through AWS, stormwater retention features have been installed at Riverdale Elementary School.

An important component of stormwater management is the Anacostia tributary of Wells Run (see photos), which flows through the center of town. The Wells Run channel enters TRP through a residential neighborhood, flows through a municipal park, re-enters a residential neighborhood, travels down the median of a state highway (MD-410), passes behind the elementary school, and finally empties into the Northeast Branch of the Anacostia River. Because of the multitude of property owners and entities ranging from private citizens to the Maryland National Capital Parks and Planning Commission (MNCPPC), to the State of Maryland, it has been difficult to organize a comprehensive strategy for stormwater



management. This is further compounded by the fact that Prince George's County owns the concrete that lines the banks of Wells Run. When the Wells Run channel was created, the goal was to usher stormwater through TRP as quickly as possible to avoid flooding. This, unfortunately, has had a negative impact on the health of the Anacostia Watershed. The concrete channel does not allow for the absorption of pollutants before the Wells Run water enters the Northeast Branch of the river. Furthermore, the lack of a natural streambed increases thermal pollution, which is also detrimental to wildlife.

TRP is committed to finding a sustainable future for Wells Run in support of the greater Anacostia Watershed, while safeguarding the properties of local citizens. On February 1, 2020,

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the town's Director of Public Works and the Mayor participated in a Wells Run Culvert Walk with County Councilmember Danielle Glaros and representatives from MNCPPC, the Prince George's County Department of Public Works and Transportation to assess re-naturalizing the channel.



After discussion with Prince George's County representatives, due to the variety of property owners along the Wells Run channel, TRP and Prince George's County have not reached a plan to re-naturalize the waterway. The mayor and TRP staff will continue to engage with Prince George's County, MNCPPC, and other stakeholders to explore opportunities to green existing infrastructure along Wells Run. In the coming years, the TRP Sustainability Committee plans to prioritize coordination with TRP staff to assist in coordinating stormwater management plans and will help in any way possible to get the TRP community

involved with development of plans to re-naturalize the Wells Run channel.



In addition to the Wells Run channel, TRP continues to make other improvements in TRP's stormwater management system. TRP reports that Prince George's County provided initial funding up to \$100,000 for a project along Longfellow Street in TRP to improve storm water overflow from an ongoing project that began in fiscal year 2015. There is a longstanding drainage issue in the public right-of-way and separately on private property to the rear of the residential structures on the southside

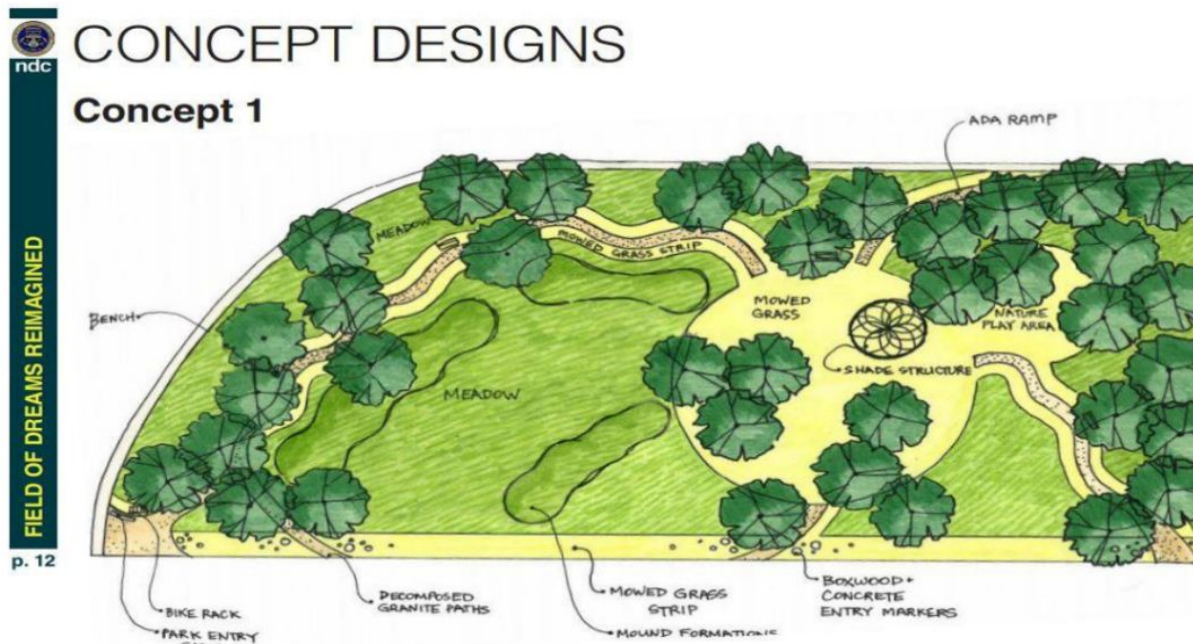
of Longfellow Street. The scope of the project involves the installation of new inlets and piping where needed. In the fiscal year 2021 budget, TRP reports that the project will exceed this budget. An additional amount of up to \$50,000 is likely needed. County staff are drafting an addendum to the original agreement for the County to provide the necessary funding. TRP continues to assist and monitor this ongoing project.

The development of Riverdale Park Station included an opportunity for TRP to design a new public green space in a nearby area known as the Field of Dreams. This Capital Improvement Project includes stormwater management plans. In [fiscal year 2019](#), TRP approved \$5,000 to organize community design charrettes and other opportunities for community input.

TRP solicited residents' input regarding the Field of Dreams park design during 2018 and 2019 at the Riverdale Park Farmers Market, other town locations, and at a visioning workshop. The

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visioning workshop was reported on in the [December 2018 Town Crier](#) newsletter. The park design chosen with the community input includes a mixed-use open space with some un-mowed meadow area and many new trees.



According to the town's approved budget for [fiscal year 2021](#), the Field of Dreams will include improvements along the Tuckerman Street border to the park with the installation of a sidewalk. The sidewalk will be designed to not add run-off onto the street and will improve pedestrian connectivity in the neighborhood. The park will also have stormwater management and other site improvements. TRP applied for a grant from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources to complete this project. TRP is also currently finalizing an agreement with the County to fund trees for the site.