

FALL 2022

# What's going on at Oxon Run?



## Project Background

### **The District Department of Energy & Environment (DOEE) recently awarded the Oxon Run Stream Design & Park Master Plan**

contract. This contract is for design and planning purposes to layout a vision for stream restoration, develop a master park plan for Oxon Run Park, and make recommendations for sewer line improvements. Over the next three years our team will be monitoring the stream, hosting community engagement activities, and presenting proposed plans for community feedback.

This project is a partnership among DOEE, the DC Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR), the National Park Service (NPS), and DC Water.





# What's Been Going On?

You may have seen some activity in and around the stream and park over the summer and wondered what was going on (and who those people were). They were members of the project team collecting data to inform the stream restoration design and inventorying the existing park characteristics. Typical activities you may have noticed/will notice and their purpose include:

## Wetland Delineation

### What is it?

A wetland is an ecosystem that is flooded by water, either permanently or seasonally. A wetland delineation establishes the location and size of a wetland.

### Why is it done?

To identify any wetlands in the Oxon Run area and mark them for mapping purposes and protection. Wetlands provide many environmental and water quality benefits and are protected resources under federal, state, and local laws.

### What will I observe?

Project team staff flagging wetlands (or wetlands that have already been flagged.) Flagging consists of pink ribbons or wooded stakes with pink ribbons set on the perimeter of the identified and measured wetlands.

## Did You Know?



Did you know that the wetlands in Oxon Run provide habitat for great blue heron, green heron, black-crowned night heron, osprey, bald eagle, turtles and red foxes?

## Stream Investigations & Fish Sampling

### What is it?

Stream investigations are walks in and along the stream to note conditions, flow, and habitat; and collect samples of dirt, water, and other elements. Fish sampling is a method of catching and identifying fish in the stream.





## Tree Surveying

### What is it?

Tree surveying identifies and records the type, size, and condition of trees in an area.

### Why is it done?

To note the overall health and condition of trees, as well as determine which trees are protected by federal, state, and local laws.

### What will I observe?

Project team staff measuring trees, and marking any of significance with white tags. If you have noticed white tags on trees around Oxon Run, they have recently been surveyed!



## Land Surveying

### What is it?

Land surveying is a technique used to determine an area's points and measure the distances between them. These points are used to create boundaries for ownership and establish maps.

### Why is it done?

To accurately map the property in and around Oxon Run Park and stream.

### What will I observe?

A crew of project team staff using tools like the one pictured to measure and establish property lines and boundaries.



### Why is it done?

Both are done to assess the overall condition and health of the stream and its habitat, and to identify any species that need to be protected.

### What will I observe?

At our recent fish sampling investigation, we caught some very fun fish! Upstream of the concrete channel, we observed an abundance of mummichog, blacknose dace and redbreast sunfish, along with smaller quantities of American eel, pumpkinseed, green sunfish and creek chub.

# Next Steps

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**You will see project team members out collecting data throughout the fall.**

Please feel free to contact us if you have questions/ concerns or are interested in participating - these are great educational opportunities for children and adults alike!

The project team will also be out doing community outreach and engagement, including partnering with Friends of Oxon Run, The WELL, and other community-based organizations to attend their events, as well as host our own pop ups, stream and park walks/tours, and project meetings. Please sign up for email news and updates to get information about these meetings and events (see info below.)



**Interested in signing up for project news and updates?**

Please email: [emccollum@prrbiz.com](mailto:emccollum@prrbiz.com) to provide your contact information.