

The Town of Washington Grove, Maryland
Restoration and Maintenance of Forest Preserves
August 2007

Excerpts from Town's Master Plan:

“The Forest Preserves of Washington Grove total almost one half of the Town's lands and are located on the northeast and northwest sides of Town. They provide significant environmental and aesthetic benefits to the Town, as well as to the external neighborhoods in the area. Water running through the East Woods is part of the Rock Creek headwaters. Water running through the West Woods is part of the Great Seneca Creek headwaters. The Town has an adopted Forestry Policy that is aimed at protecting the East and West Woods and ensuring that their benefits will be available for the foreseeable future... Erosion and trash dumping continue to impact the West Woods... Regular removal of trash helps to eliminate the notion that woods should function as dumps. The East Woods currently enjoy a fairly low level of trash impact. The West Woods, however, are the repository of large amounts of dumping, much of which seems to originate from an adjacent development... Whether from erosion, run off, natural invasions such as greenbriar, or the assault of motorized vehicles or tree cutters, both woods are sensitive areas and vulnerable to degradation. Maintaining as much environmental diversity as possible to support flora and fauna should be a major goal of the Town.”

Formation of 2007 Woods Group:

After a presentation and discussion at the June 2007 Annual Town Meeting, efforts to restore and maintain the Forest Preserves of Washington Grove have been reinvigorated. Collections of documents from past committee work have been posted to the Town's website for review and background. A new Woods Group has been formed with four Sub-Groups focused on: Water and Soil, Habitat, Passive Recreation, and Borders of the Woods. The work plan has been endorsed and activities are underway to:

- Evaluate current conditions,
- Secure professional analysis and advice,
- Identify Town and professional resources,
- Divine all reasonable solutions/actions,
- Flesh out actions with estimated costs,
- Seek positive participation of neighbors, and
- Present recommended actions with budget and timeline to the Town Council in time for budget decisions for the next fiscal year.

The following images are from the presentation at the Annual Town Meeting.

West Woods of Washington Grove –



Maple Lake in West Woods –



Towne Crest Apartments Parking Lot adjacent to West Woods –



Walking Paths in West Woods –



Downed Trees in West Woods –



Large Roots of Downed Trees –



Root Erosion from Stormwater Runoff –



More Root Erosion –



And More Root Erosion –



Outfall from Towne Crest Apartments Parking Lot –



Condition of Towne Crest Outfall –



Trash and Erosion at Towne Crest Outfall –

