

Reedy Creek Watershed Protection Audit

The Reedy Creek Coalition is committed to restoring the health and beauty of Reedy Creek through education, training, and collaboration with all residents and users of the Reedy Creek Watershed and its natural resources. Healthy watersheds are an integral part of vibrant, healthy communities. We also strongly encourage water conservation and other landscape practices that help restore the natural ecosystems that contribute to a healthy watershed.

Your audit will be done by members of the Reedy Creek Coalition who have been trained by staff of the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay. The Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay is a regional nonprofit organization that builds and fosters partnerships to protect and to restore the Bay and its rivers. The audit will take 1- 1 ½ hours. All activities can take place outdoors if you wish.

The audit process includes:

- Questionnaire for the homeowner provided in this packet. Please complete prior to the audit. This information will assist the auditors in assessing your impact on the watershed.

- A survey of your property by our auditors which will include:
 - assessing the potential for storm water runoff
 - taking measurements of impervious surfaces on your property
 - assessing landscaping and other factors that can impact water quality
 - photographing potential problem areas (taken with your permission)
 - review of answers to the pre-audit questionnaire
 - discussion of significant findings

- A report will then be prepared and sent to you. This report will list the findings of the audit, including the positive attributes of the property as well as suggestions for changes that could reduce your impact on the watershed. Suggestions for improvement will be prioritized from highest impact to lowest. Your specific concerns and interests will be considered when preparing this report. You can expect the report to arrive approximately 2 weeks after the audit.

- In addition, we will schedule a time for a follow-up visit to discuss the report, provide additional resources and answer questions that you may have.

If you have any questions please contact us at reedycreekcoalition@gmail.com

These definitions may be helpful:

Watershed: The area of land where all of the water that drains off goes into the same stream, lake or other water body. A watershed can cross county and state lines. We all live in a watershed! See the following page for a map of the Reedy Creek Watershed.

Stormwater runoff: Stormwater runoff is that water that leaves your property during a rain. Toxic chemicals, pet waste, fertilizers, oil, trash, and anything else on the ground can be washed away with this water polluting Reedy Creek. **Reducing stormwater runoff is the most important step we can take to improve water quality.**

Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO): Combined Sewer Overflow system is a combination of sanitary and stormwater sewer systems that carries water to the wastewater treatment plant. However, if there is a heavy rain event, the capacity of the system is exceeded and untreated sewage can be dumped into some local streams and the James River.

Impervious surface: Impervious surface is any surface that water will not penetrate. All buildings are considered impervious as are concrete and asphalt. The more impervious surface on your property, the more negative impact your property has on Reedy Creek **UNLESS** you find a way to keep that water on your property during a rain.

Semi-impervious surface: Semi-impervious surface is a surface which will absorb water, but does so slowly. Stormwater runoff from semi-impervious surfaces is a problem when there are heavy rains. Lawns are usually semi-impervious as are patios made with brick or pavers laid in sand.

Alien and Alien, Invasive plants: Alien plants (also referred to as non-native or exotic) are plants introduced by human activity (intentionally or not) into an area where they did not evolve. These plants sometimes become invasive when they escape cultivation and threaten ecosystems. Alien, invasive plants spread rapidly and out-compete native species. Examples of alien, invasive plants in the Richmond area are English ivy, Japanese honeysuckle, Oriental bittersweet and tree of heaven.

BayScapes: BayScapes are environmentally sound landscapes that reduce our environmental footprint. BayScaping utilizes native plants. This reduces the need for chemicals, fertilizers and additional water and also maximizes benefits to wildlife. Alien, invasive plants are removed to the extent possible.

Visit the **Center for Watershed Protection** for a slide show about watersheds.

http://www.cwp.org/Resource_Library/Why_Watersheds/index.htm#slideshows

Visit the **Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay** for information about BayScaping and stormwater management.

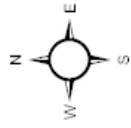
<http://www.acb-online.org/pubs.cfm>

Visit **Weeds Gone Wild** for information about alien, invasive plants.

<http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/>

Visit **Bringing Nature Home** to learn why we should use native plants.

<http://bringingnaturehome.net/>

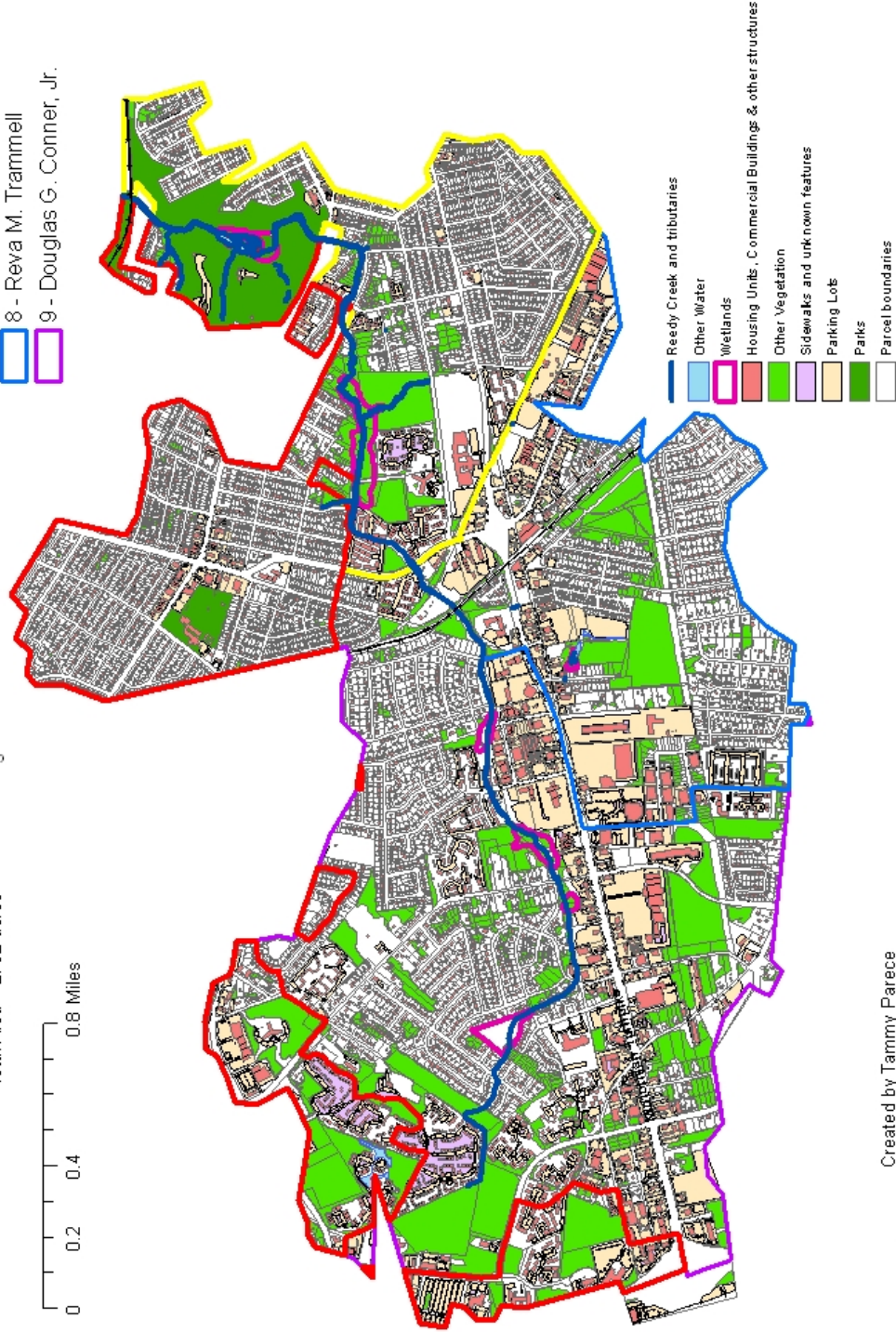


Reedy Creek Watershed

Total Area = 2792 acres



- Council Districts**
- 4 - Kathy C. Graziano
 - 5 - E. Martin Jewell
 - 8 - Reva M. Trammell
 - 9 - Douglas G. Conner, Jr.



Created by Tammy Parece
During Virginia Commonwealth University graduate GIS Project
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