

March 1, 2024

The following is a description of the ongoing Emergency Stream bank and Greenway Trail Erosion Repair along the Herring Run. The repair work starts just south of the Harford Road Bridge to the pedestrian bridge. The work is emergency temporary repair; not a long term fix.

It is being done in two stages. First, a dam of rocks and poly material was installed to divert water from the far bank (Hooper side). A temporary bridge was installed across the run. This enabled equipment to get in and re-slope the bank and cover it with geotechnical material. Not clear if it will be vegetated as part of the work or if it will be left to re-vegetate without plantings.

The next stage is to stabilize the near bank (Tyndale side) by addressing the mass failure and bank undercutting caused by fluctuations in the stream flow. The stream will be diverted away from this side with a temporary poly wall and diversion dam.

The bank stabilization plan is to use a combination of rock, soil, and bundled vegetative staking. The work will focus on the bank that is south of the Tyndale drainage outfall to the sewer stack near the pedestrian bridge. One complication is a large outcropping of bedrock in the water. Getting the correct bank grade/slope around those immovable rock slabs will be challenging.



A view from pedestrian bridge of work area

A hero in this tale is the large sycamore growing on a portion of the bank that juts out into the water, just north of the Tyndale outfall. All around it the bank is washed away. Yet the tree's roots are holding that portion of the bank in place along with some old metal rip rap. The tree will stay; that part of the bank will not be addressed.

After all the bank repair is complete, the Contractors will repair the paved trail and re-install the railing. At the trail head (Hall Springs) the Contractor will plant 2 trees to replace two that were lost to setting up the staging area (currently, huge piles of gravel).

Civil Engineering is the contractor. This is the firm working on the Western Branch contract. This project is reported to be intensively monitored. Site meetings with the Contractor, DPW, BCRP are held every Wed morning at 8am.

As a temporary fix, this dogleg of the stream will most likely be addressed under the new HR Stream Restoration design contract recently awarded to Biohabitats. The contract will encompass two years of study to design stream fixes along the run from Harford Road to I-895, including any exposed sewage pipe.