

Concerns about Woodlawn Park proposed stormwater vault

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Arlington County Forestry and Natural Resources Commission

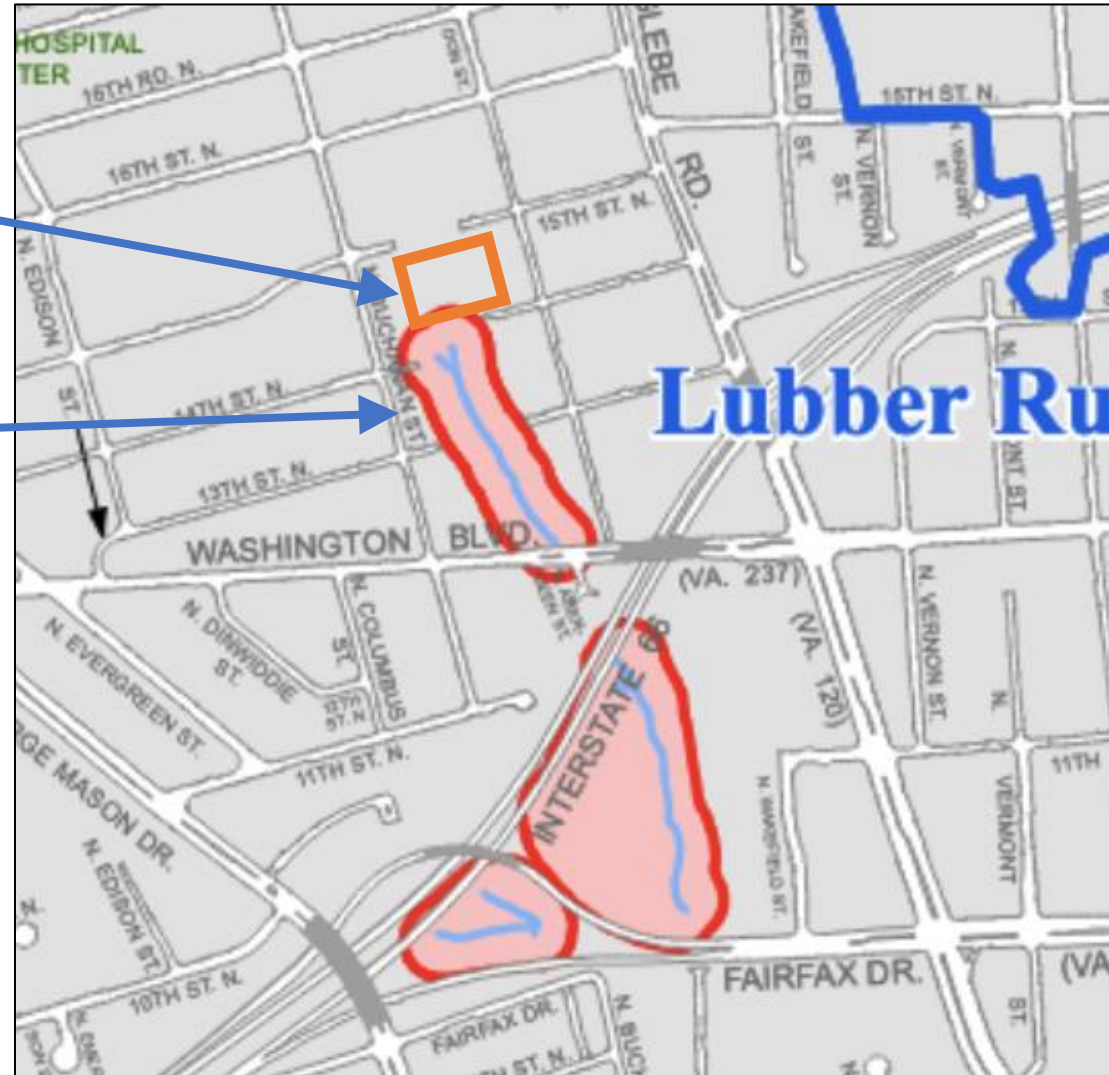
Overview

- A very large \$50M stormwater detention vault has been proposed in Woodlawn Park
- Would concentrate water flow into park, expected to overflow in the event of a > 10-year flood
- Serious concerns from neighbors, including but not limited to:
 - Concentration of flood risk for homes abutting the park; FEMA floodplain, RPA
 - Loss of park use for 2-3 years, with extreme disruption to neighbors
 - Complete excavation of north end, reversing years of restoration work
 - Violates 2023 Forestry and Natural Resources Plan: “No loss of natural land”
 - Vault does not appear necessary to make targeted inlet and pipe upgrades uphill
- Process has not included engagement of other county experts, other county priorities (e.g. FNRP and tree canopy), or investigation of non-vault alternatives, e.g., geographically dispersed upstream catchment

Resource Protection Area (RPA) in Woodlawn Park

Proposed vault

RPA boundary



Source: Arlington, VA [RPA Map pdf](#)

Data indicate entire park is a natural area

- See [Nature of Woodlawn Park](#) page in iNaturalist (map on right)
- 797 total observations
- 278 total species
- 87 trees and understory shrubs in the affected area
- Nesting migratory birds and bats in north end



Trees in Woodlawn Park North End



Breeding bat population in affected area

Bat Flight Data 2022-23

Woodlawn Park north end open field, 216 observations



Each line depicts an individual bat and flight path.

Successive zooms (left to right) show individual bat flight paths and IDs:

EPTFUS – Big brown bat (92 observations) LASCIN – Hoary bat (38 observations)

LASNOC – Silver-haired bat (85 observations) LASBOR – Eastern red bat (1 observation)

Data collected by Paul Smith using EchoMeter device by Wildlife Acoustics. IDs from ultrasonic chirp patterns.



For reference: Cardinal Elementary Site



Appendix: See Slide 8 of DES Vault Proposal Map, September 2023 (All graphics and annotations by DES)

Draft Proposed Watershed Strategy

Three Areas of work:

1. Western Network
2. Vault at Woodlawn
3. Northern Network

Detention at Woodlawn Park requires Pump & vault is deep.

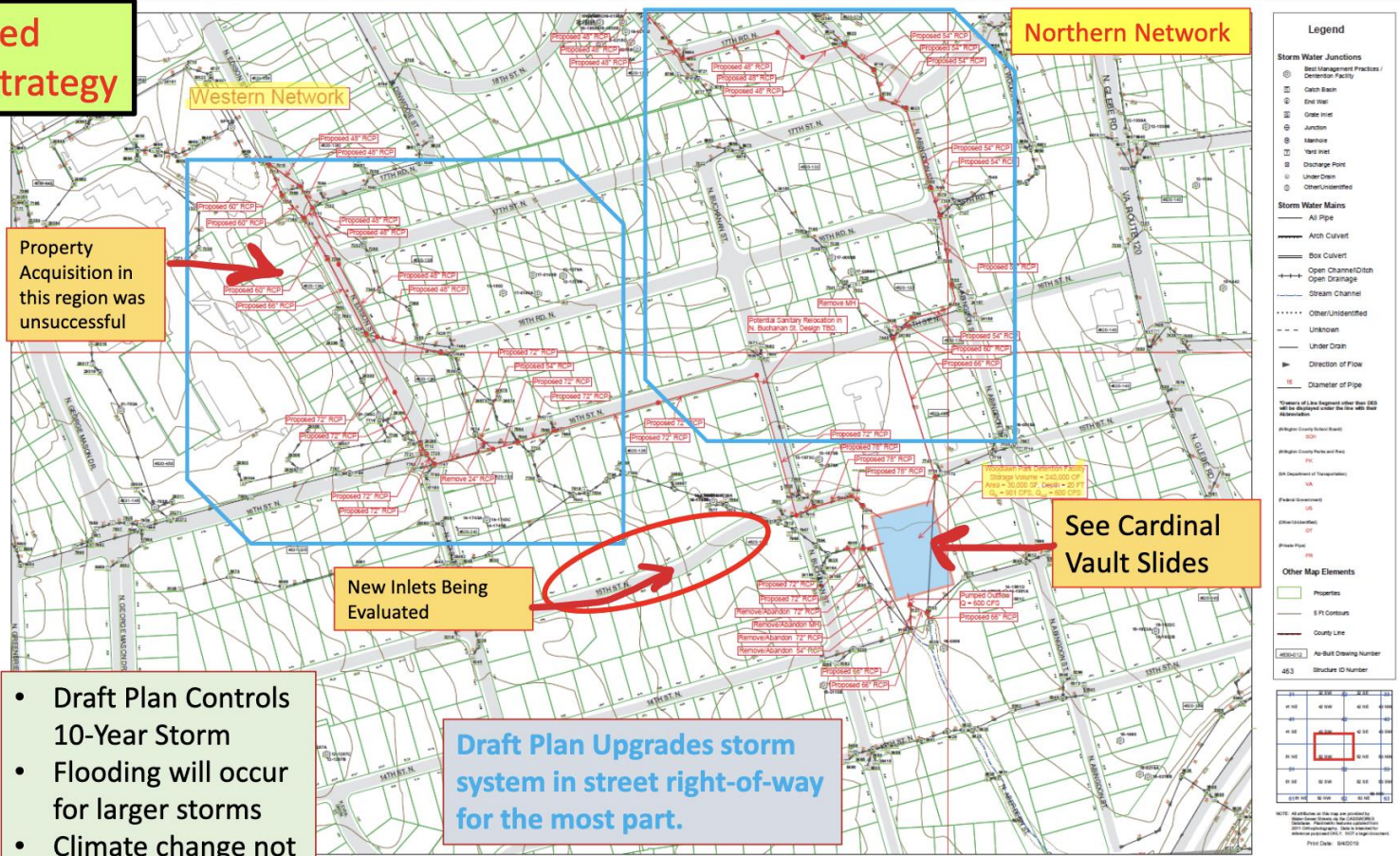
Concerns regarding utility conflicts along N Edison St.

Property Acquisition in this region was unsuccessful

New Inlets Being Evaluated

Draft Plan Upgrades storm system in street right-of-way for the most part.

- Draft Plan Controls 10-Year Storm
- Flooding will occur for larger storms
- Climate change not accounted for.



Legend

Storm Water Junctions

- Best Management Practices / Detention Facility
- Catch Basin
- Check Valve
- Gate Inlet
- Junction
- Manhole
- Yard Inlet
- Discharge Point
- Under Drain
- Other/Unidentified

Storm Water Mains

- All Pipe
- Arch Culvert
- Box Culvert
- Open Channel/Clutch
- Open Drainage
- Stream Channel
- Other/Unidentified
- Unknown
- Under Drain

Other Map Elements

- Properties
- 5 FT Contours
- County Line
- As-Built Drawing Number
- Structure ID Number

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