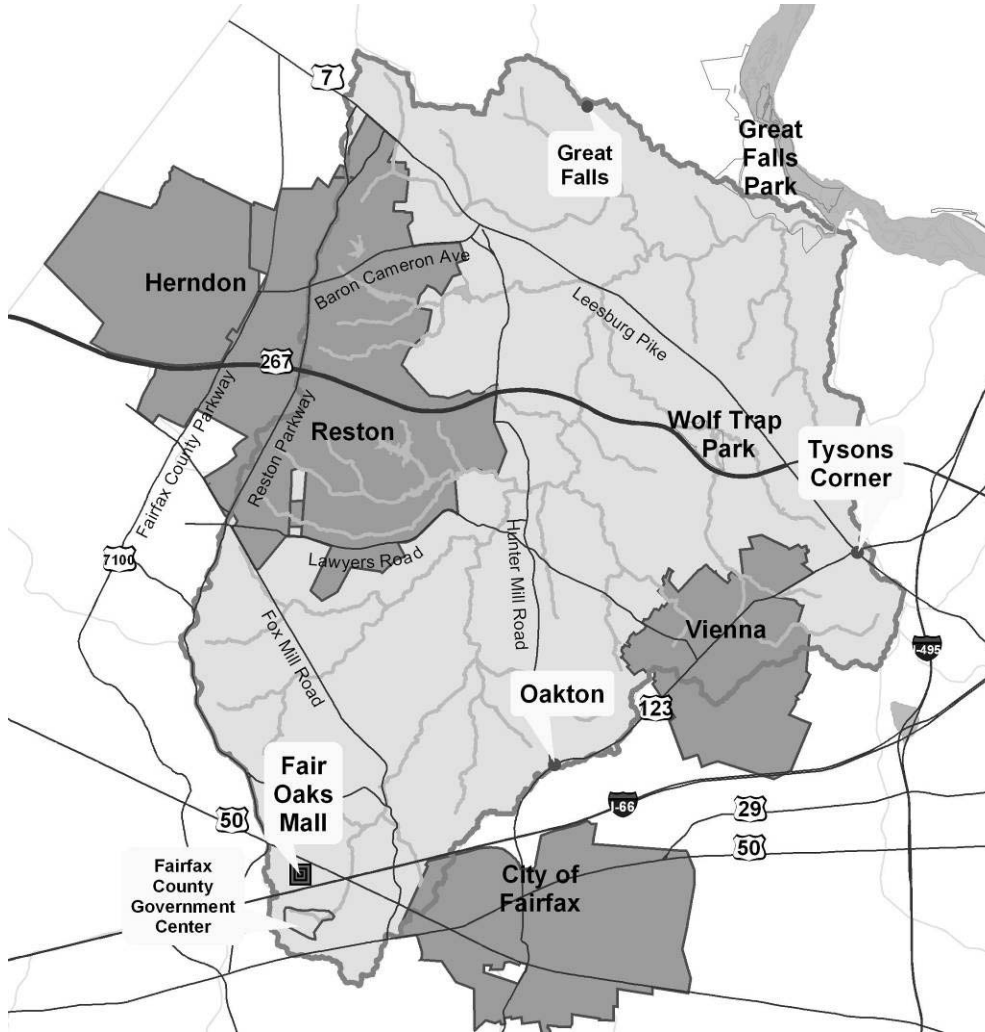

Newsletter Article for Difficult Run Watershed Public Issues Forum

Fairfax County, as part of its effort to create a Watershed Management Plan for the Difficult Run Watershed, will conduct a Public Issues Forum on **November 6, 2004, from 9:00 am until noon**. The forum will be held at the Crossfield Elementary School at 2791 Fox Mill Road in Herndon.



This will be the first of four forums that will be held over the next year. The forum is part of the overall effort by Fairfax County to create watershed plans for each of its thirty watersheds, including Difficult Run. The goal of the Difficult Run planning effort is expressed in the Planning Team's process statement:

To develop an environmentally effective watershed management plan, created by community stakeholders, which protects and improves water quality and habitat in Difficult Run and reduces the adverse impacts of flooding and stormwater.

During the forum, the public will learn about the Difficult Run Watershed—where it is, the definition of “watershed”, as well as its unique qualities and its current conditions.

The Difficult Run Planning Team would also like to learn from those living in the watershed. Participants will be asked to work in small groups to discuss problems that they have experienced first-hand, such as stream flooding and bank erosion.

The Difficult Run Watershed is comprised of all areas in north-central Fairfax County (see the map below for details). Public participation is critical to the success of creating an effective plan. You are encouraged to attend the public forum if you live, work, or play in the watershed.

After the forum, join Judy Okay, a Virginia Forester, for a one-hour walk along Difficult Run at the Fox Mill District Park (adjacent to Crossfield Elementary) at 12:30 pm. During the walk, you'll get an opportunity to see the conditions of the stream, first-hand. Wear comfortable shoes and bring water.

For more information, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/watersheds/ or call: Paul Shirey, *Fairfax County Project Manager* or, Fred Rose, *Branch Chief, Watershed Planning and Assessment Branch* at 703-324-5500.