Pinehurst Branch Stream and Wetland Restoration

Environmental Assessment
Public Scoping Meeting

Rock Creek Park

Virtual Meeting

October 1, 2026

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

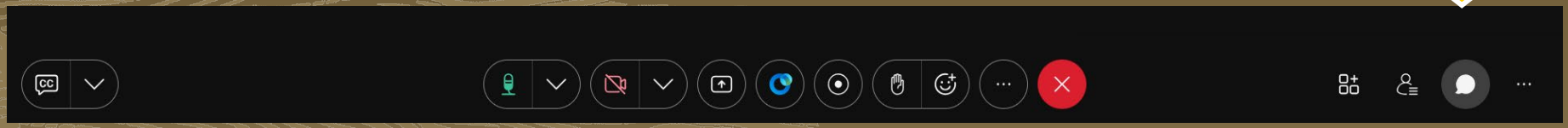
GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
MURIEL BOWSER, MAYOR

Virtual Meeting Overview

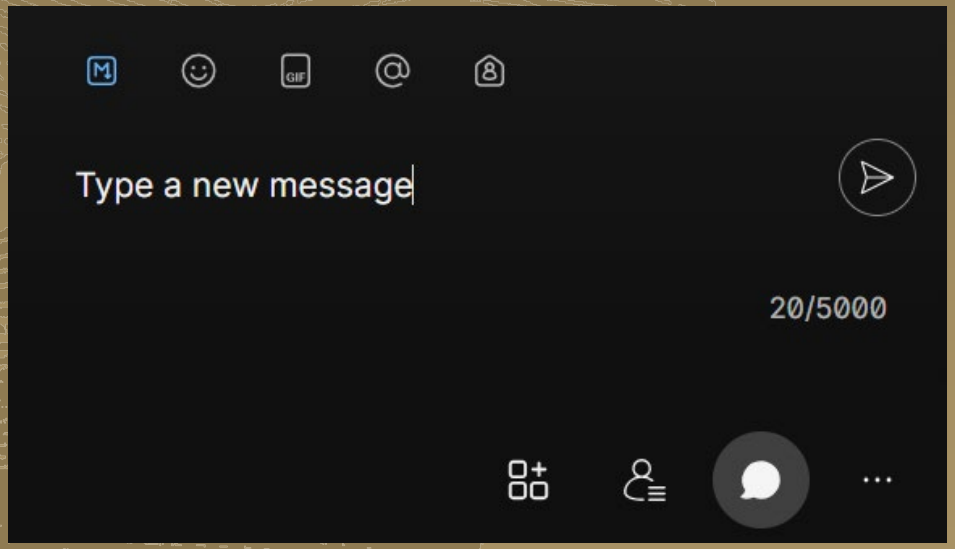
- This meeting is being recorded
- Type your questions into the Meeting Chat at any time
- Questions will be answered at the end of the presentation as time allows
- Questions or comments submitted as part of this meeting will not be considered **formal** comments on the project
  - Formal comments must be submitted online at https://parkplanning.nps.gov/pinehurstbranch or postmarked by October 30, 2026

How to Ask a Question

1. Click on the “Chat” icon at the bottom of your screen



2. The Meeting Chat panel will open on the right side of the screen
3. Enter your question into the text box and select Send.



Speaker Introductions

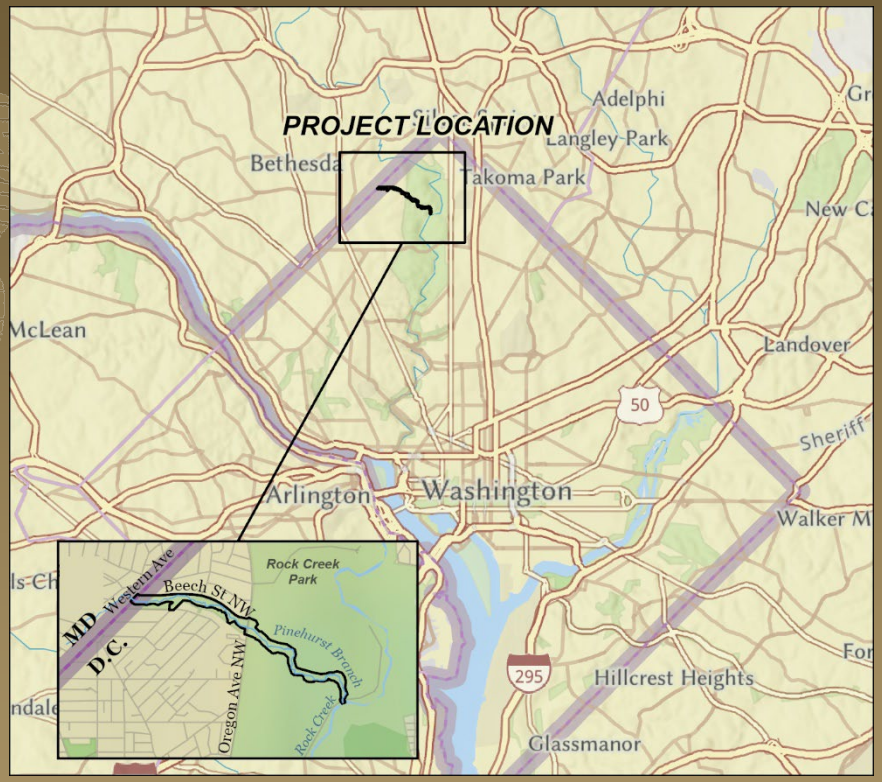
- Jamie Euken, NPS Rock Creek Park Environmental Protection Specialist
- Cecilia Lane, DOEE Environmental Protection Specialist
- Doug Streaker, Biohabitats Principal Engineer
- Sarah Roberts, Biohabitats Project Manager/Sr. Environmental Scientist
- Doug Chapin, InterAgency Environmental Director

Meeting Agenda

- Welcome and Introduction
- Meeting Goals
- National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) Processes
- Purpose and Need
- Existing Conditions
- Proposed Restoration Approaches
- How to Comment and Next Steps
- Question & Answer

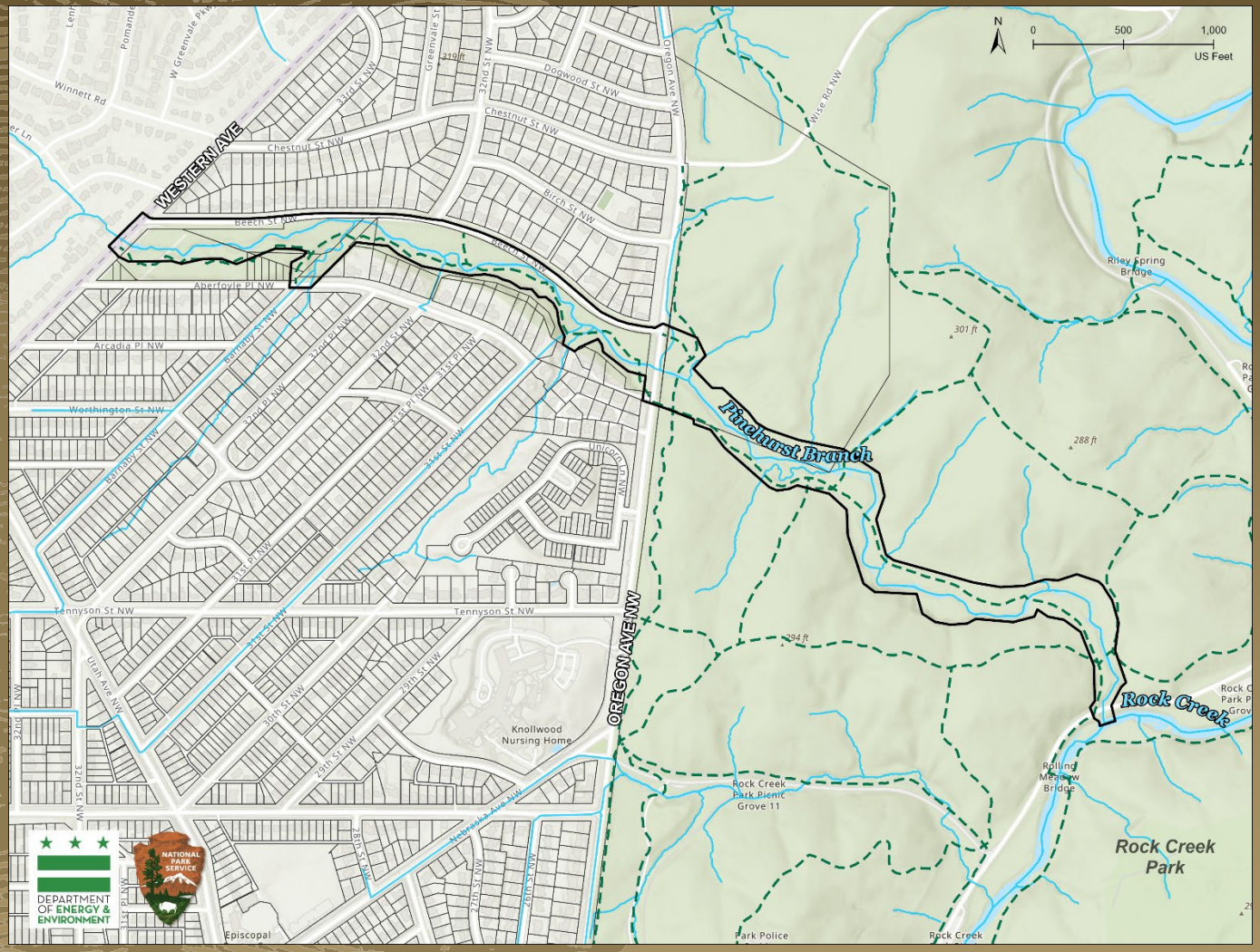
Introduction

- The District Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE) and the National Park Service (NPS) are considering concepts for stream and wetland restoration activities within the Pinehurst Branch stream corridor in northwest Washington DC.
- Project area extends from the Maryland-District border near the intersection of Western Avenue NW and Beech Street NW where Pinehurst Branch emerges from a storm pipe.
  - Approx. 8,000 linear feet of stream within a 670-acre watershed area.
- Stream crosses Oregon Avenue NW and continues in a southeastern direction until it converges with Rock Creek at Beach Drive NW.
- Project areas are located on parkland administered by National Park Service Rock Creek Park.



Map shows project location in Washington DC with a zoomed-in inset identifying the project area where stream and wetland activities will occur.

Project Area Map



- Existing Streams
- NPS Trails - Official
- Rock Creek Park
- Parcels
- Project Area

Map shows Pinehurst Branch, the surrounding neighborhood, and Rock Creek Park, and outlines the project area where stream and wetland activities are proposed.

NEPA & SECTION 106 PROCESSES

National Environmental Policy Act

- The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 is a national policy for **protecting the environment**

- NEPA requires federal agencies to:
  - Analyze the environmental impacts of federal actions
  - Engage the public in the decision-making process

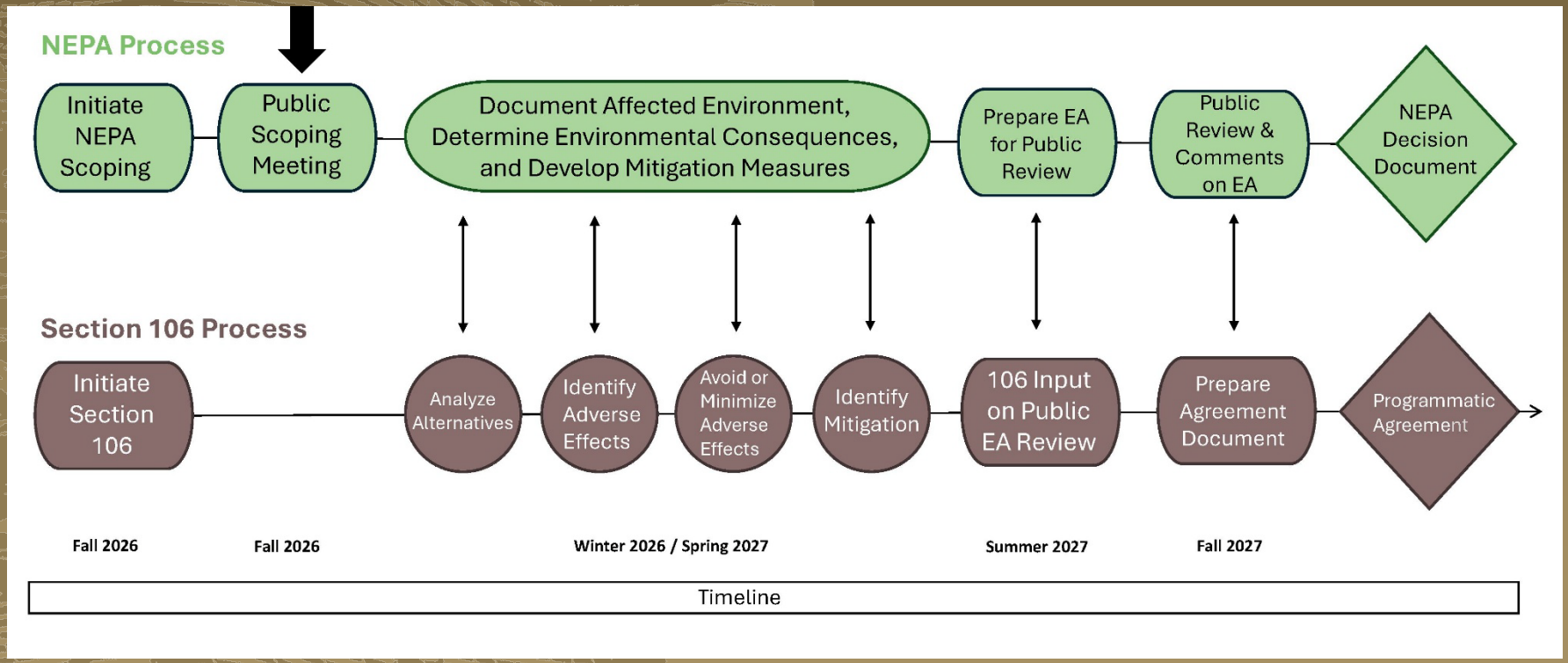
- Goal is to ensure **informed decision-making**

National Historic Preservation Act

- Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966 established a process to **protect historic resources**
- Requires federal agencies to:
  - Consider and determine the direct and indirect effects of a proposed undertaking on historic properties
  - Consult with State Historic Preservation Officers, Tribes, and other consulting parties
  - Avoid, resolve, or mitigate adverse effects to historic properties
- Goal is to **minimize potential harm and damage to historic properties**

NEPA + Section 106: A Coordinated Approach

Scoping Period: 10/01/2026 to 10/30/2026



Pinehurst Branch Stream and Wetland Restoration

PURPOSE AND NEED

Purpose

- Protect water quality and aquatic resources by reducing streambank erosion and sediment transport
- Protect public health and safety by stabilizing vulnerable sewer and transportation infrastructure
- Protect and adapt historic trail system to sustain access and protect natural resources
- Promote groundwater recharge and stable baseflow
- Restore the floodplain to reduce flow velocities and erosion during storm events
- Improve wetlands and wildlife habitat
- Manage invasive vegetation

Need

- Excessive stormwater flows are eroding stream banks and incising the channel (downcutting)
- Heavy erosion is leading to excessive sediment deposits into Rock Creek that degrades water quality and aquatic habitat
- Bank erosion has exposed sewer lines and impacted canopy trees
- Erosion and channel incision threatens to damage trails in Rock Creek Park and undermine adjacent roadways

Pinehurst Branch Stream and Wetland Restoration

EXISTING CONDITIONS

Active Bank Erosion and Tree Impacts



Person stands in front of an actively eroding streambank along Pinehurst Branch. The streambank is vertical with exposed soil and overhanging tree roots. Downed trees span the stream in the background.

Active Streambank Erosion Causing Tree Loss



Active streambank erosion along Pinehurst Branch. The streambank has eroded under a tree causing it to fall across the channel.

Floodplain Disconnection



Image of Pinehurst Branch during a storm. The stream flow is not able to access the floodplain to provide flood attenuation due to channel incision.

Relict and Degraded Wetlands from Floodplain Disconnection



The image shows a relict and degraded wetland that is located within the floodplain of Pinehurst Branch. There is a line and arrow in the image denoting the relict and degraded wetland boundary from the upland area.

Active Bank Erosion and Threatened Roadway Infrastructure



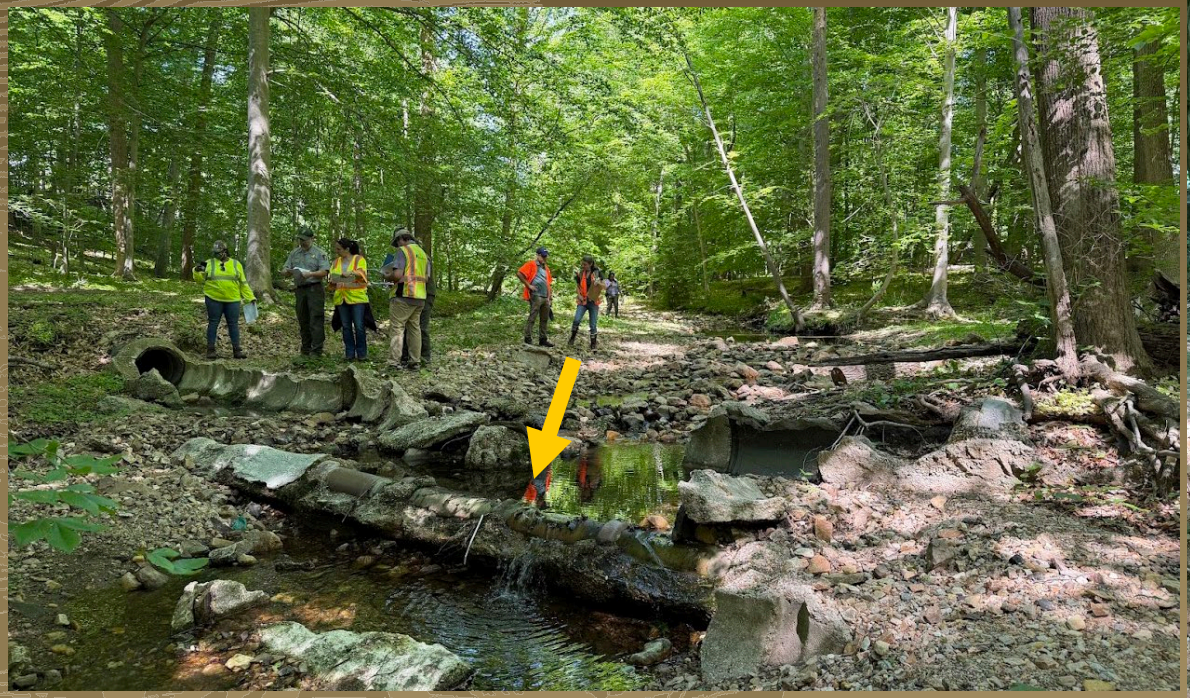
Active streambank erosion along Pinehurst Branch. An arrow is pointing at a stormwater inlet structure along Beech Street that is threatened by the active streambank erosion.

Erosion Affecting Storm Drain Outfalls



Four images showing how active streambank erosion has damaged existing storm drain outfall headwalls and aprons causing infrastructure instability.

Exposed Sanitary Sewers and Abandoned Manholes





There are two images. The image on the left shows an exposed sewer infrastructure crossing Pinehurst Branch caused from active stream channel erosion. The image on the right shows an abandoned sewer manhole within Rock Creek Park, which is intended to be removed with this project.

Excessive Sediment Accumulation



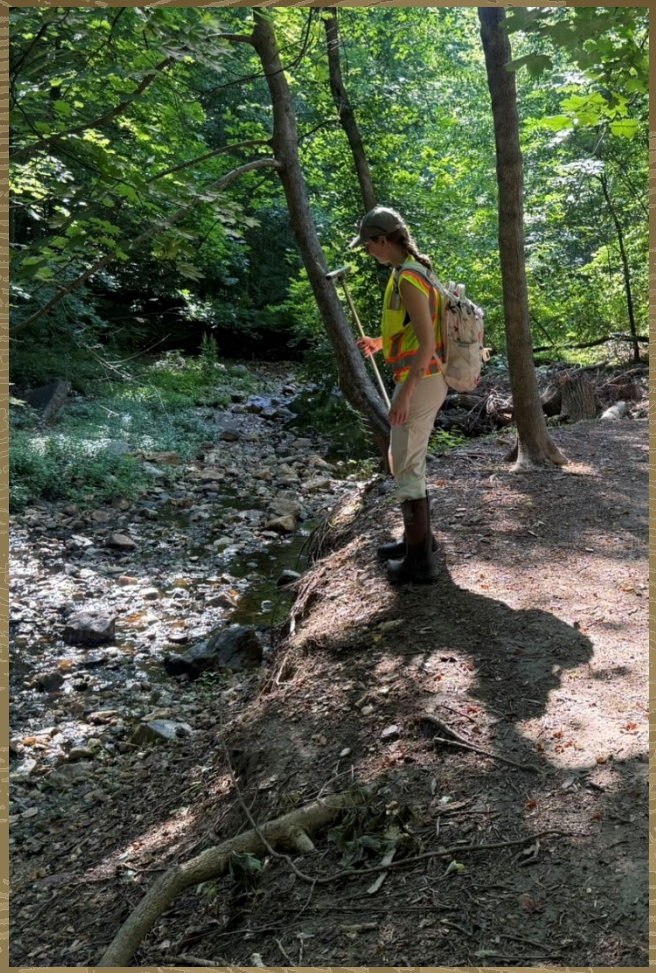
Image shows excessive sediment built up in the form of a point bar within the Pinehurst Branch channel. Sedimentation is causing stream bank erosion, degrading aquatic habitat conditions (less pools), and increasing flood risk.

Non-native Invasive Dominated Floodplain



Image shows green, non-native invasive species covering the floodplain along a section of Pinehurst Branch.

Stream and Social Impacts to NPS Trails





Two images are shown. The image on the left depicts streambank erosion cutting into NPS trails that are adjacent to the stream. The image on the right shows an arrow pointing to an example of an unofficial social trail that is damaging native vegetation.

Pinehurst Branch Stream and Wetland Restoration

PROPOSED RESTORATION APPROACHES

Proposed Restoration Approaches

- Baseflow Channel & Partial Floodplain Reconnection
- Full Floodplain Reconnection
- Outfall Channel Stabilization
- Channel and Floodplain Stabilization Measures (Bank Stabilization and Protection)
- Floodplain Enhancement/Wetland and Vernal pool Restoration
- Trail and Infrastructure Improvements
- Non-Native Invasive Vegetation Control (no slide; applied project wide) and Revegetation

Proposed Restoration Approaches

Baseflow Channel & Partial Floodplain Reconnection



Image shows a forested area with a stream flowing over a wood structure.

Proposed Restoration Approaches

Full Floodplain Reconnection



Image shows a forested area with a stream and wetland complex with wood debris.

Proposed Restoration Approaches

Outfall Channel Stabilization

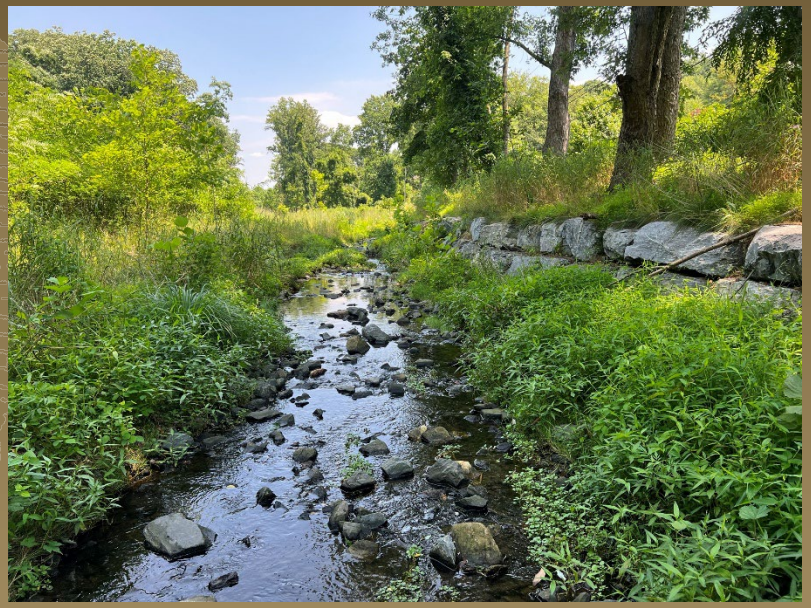


Image shows a forested area with a series of rock structures and pools along an outfall channel.

Proposed Restoration Approaches

Channel and Floodplain Stabilization Measures – Bank Stabilization and Protection





Two images are shown. The left image shows stacked rock along the left side of a bank to protect the road infrastructure. The right image shows stacked rock along the right bank to stabilize an eroding streambank and protect trees.

Proposed Restoration Approaches

Floodplain Enhancement – Wetland Restoration

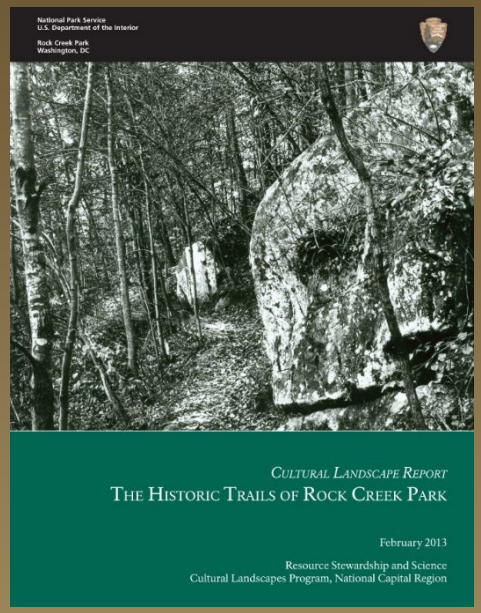


Image depicts a restored floodplain with native riparian and wetland species.

Proposed Restoration Approaches

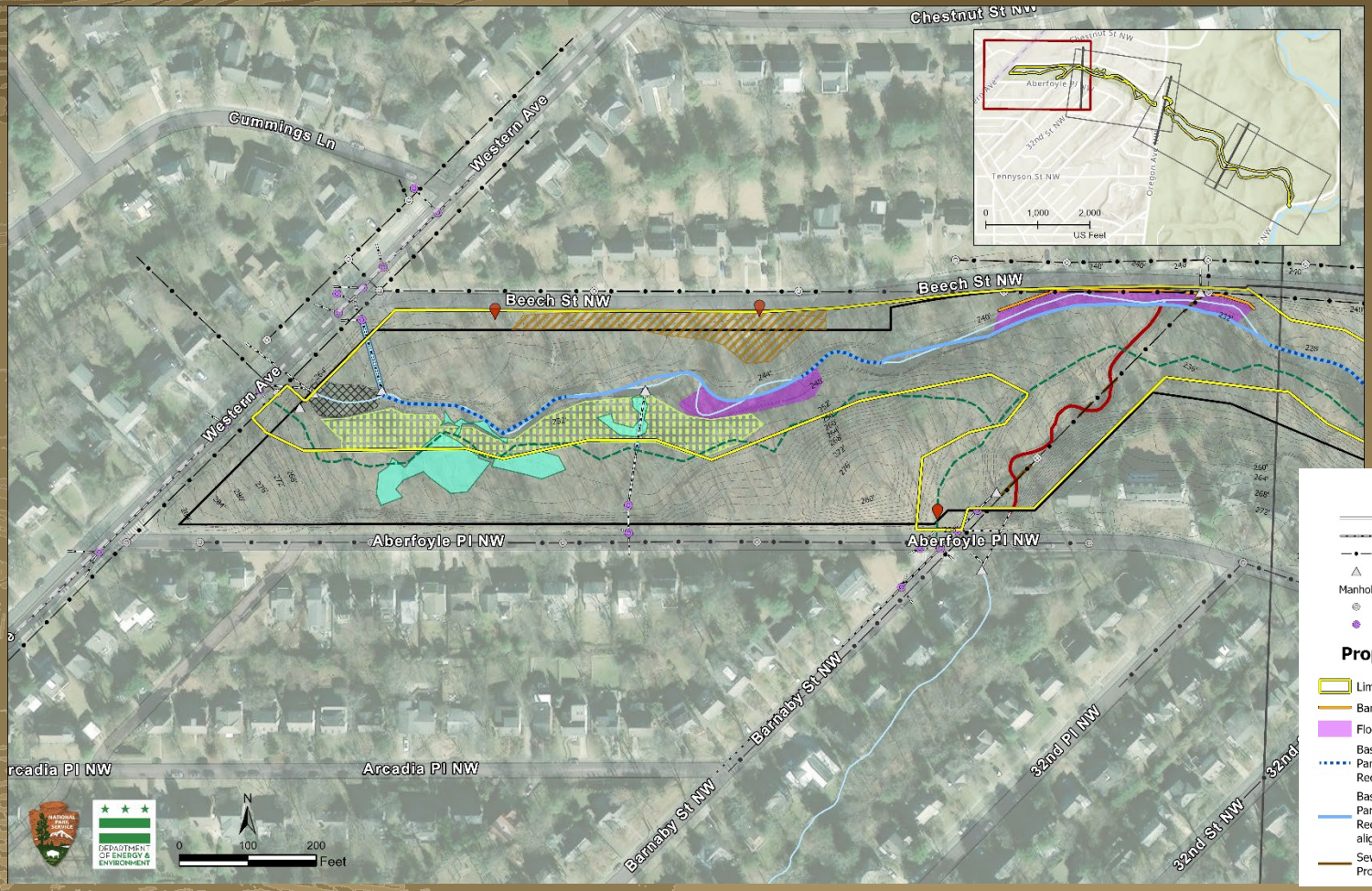
Trail and Infrastructure Improvements

- Trails
  - Remove social trails
  - NPS Trail realignment
  - Stream crossing (rock structure)
  - Wetland crossing (boardwalk)
  - Address drainage (water bar)
- Infrastructure
  - Realigning stream away from roads and sanitary sewer
  - Protection of active sanitary sewers crossing the stream
  - Stabilizing existing stormwater features (outfalls and inlets)
  - Remove abandoned manholes in Rock Creek Park



Proposed Restoration Approaches

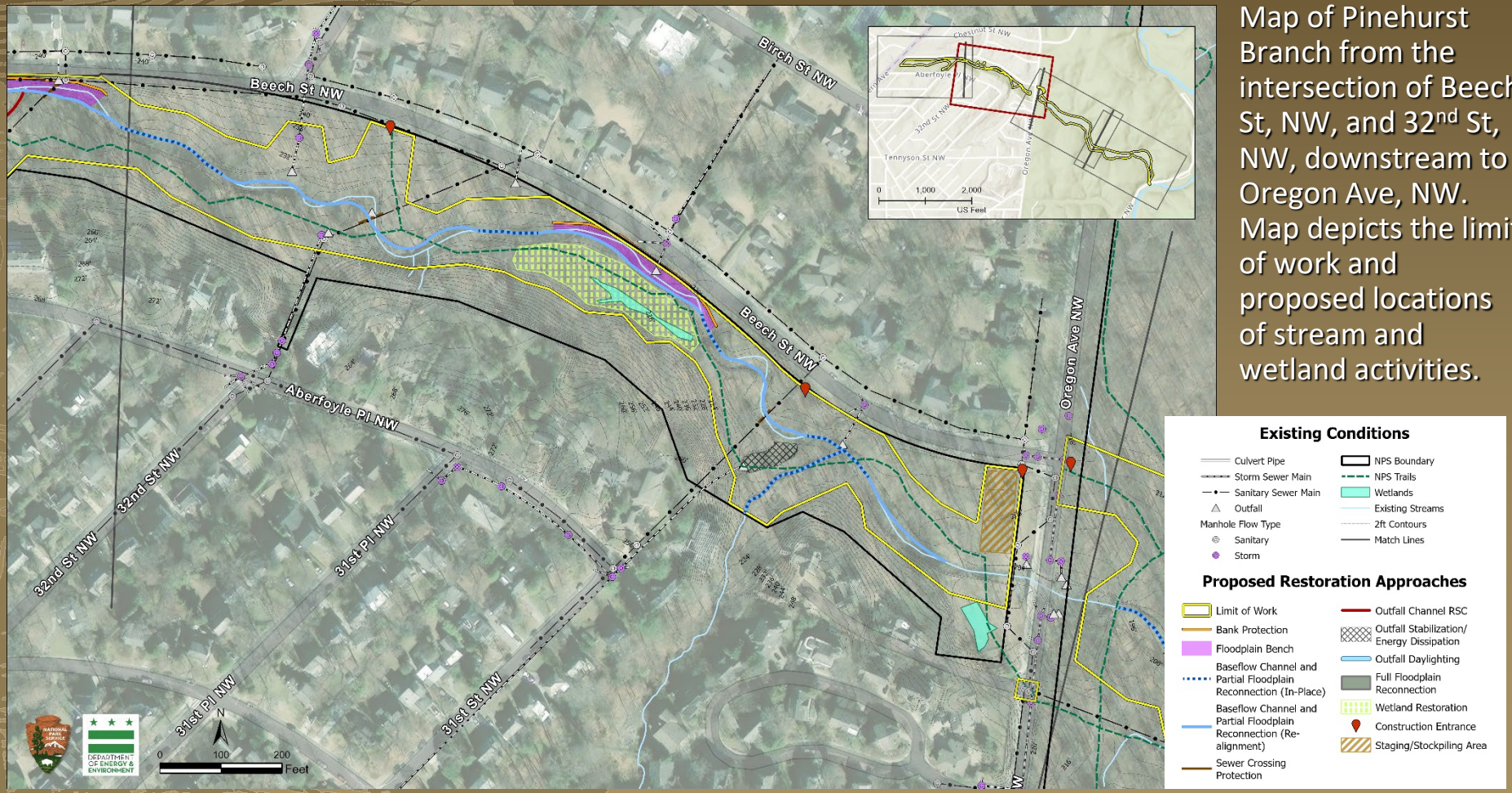
Concept Map 1



Map of Pinehurst Branch from Western Ave, NW, to approximately 1,600 feet downstream. Map depicts the limit of work and proposed locations of stream and wetland activities.

Proposed Restoration Approaches

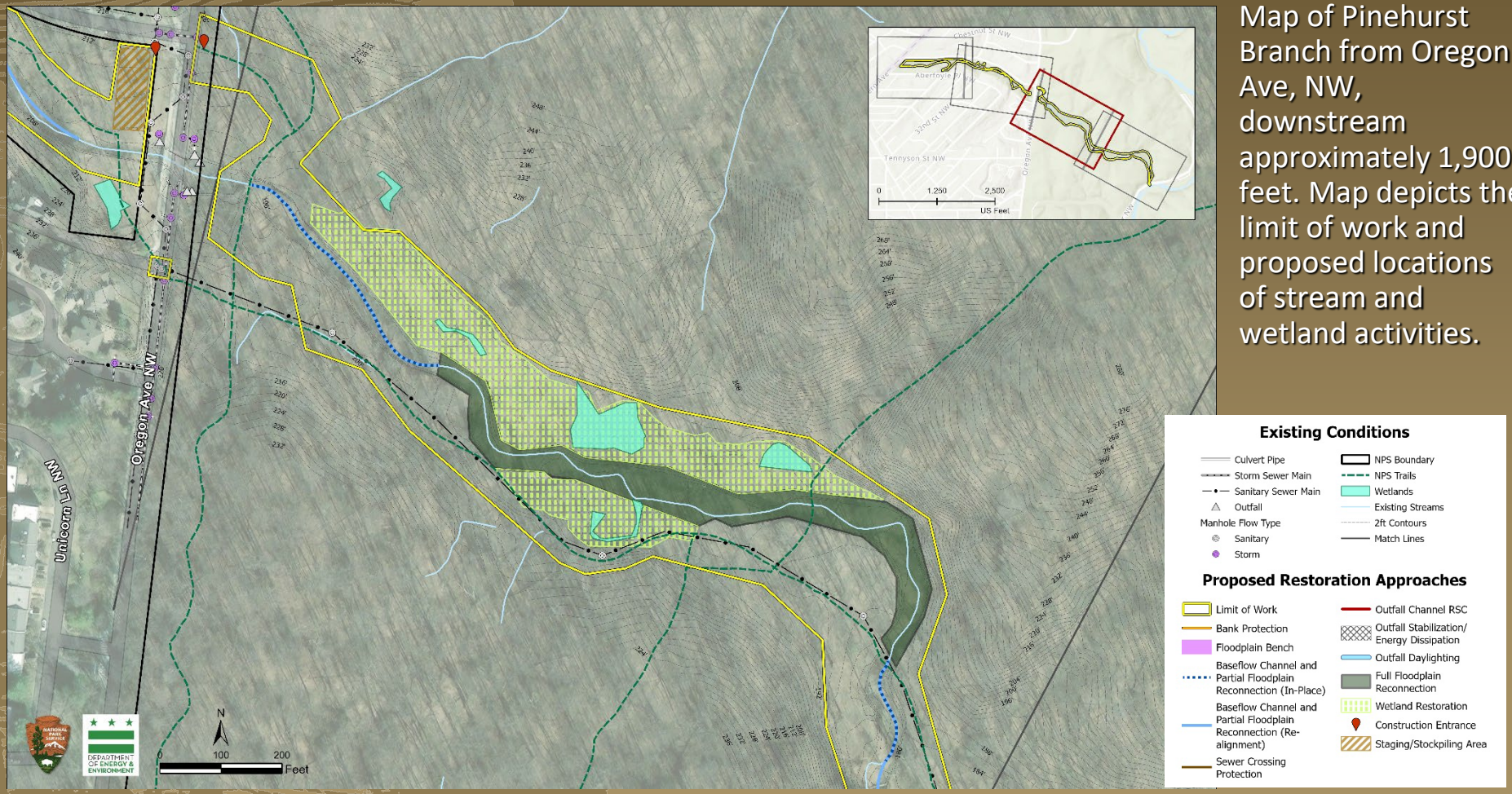
Concept Map 2



Map of Pinehurst Branch from the intersection of Beech St, NW, and 32nd St, NW, downstream to Oregon Ave, NW. Map depicts the limit of work and proposed locations of stream and wetland activities.

Proposed Restoration Approaches

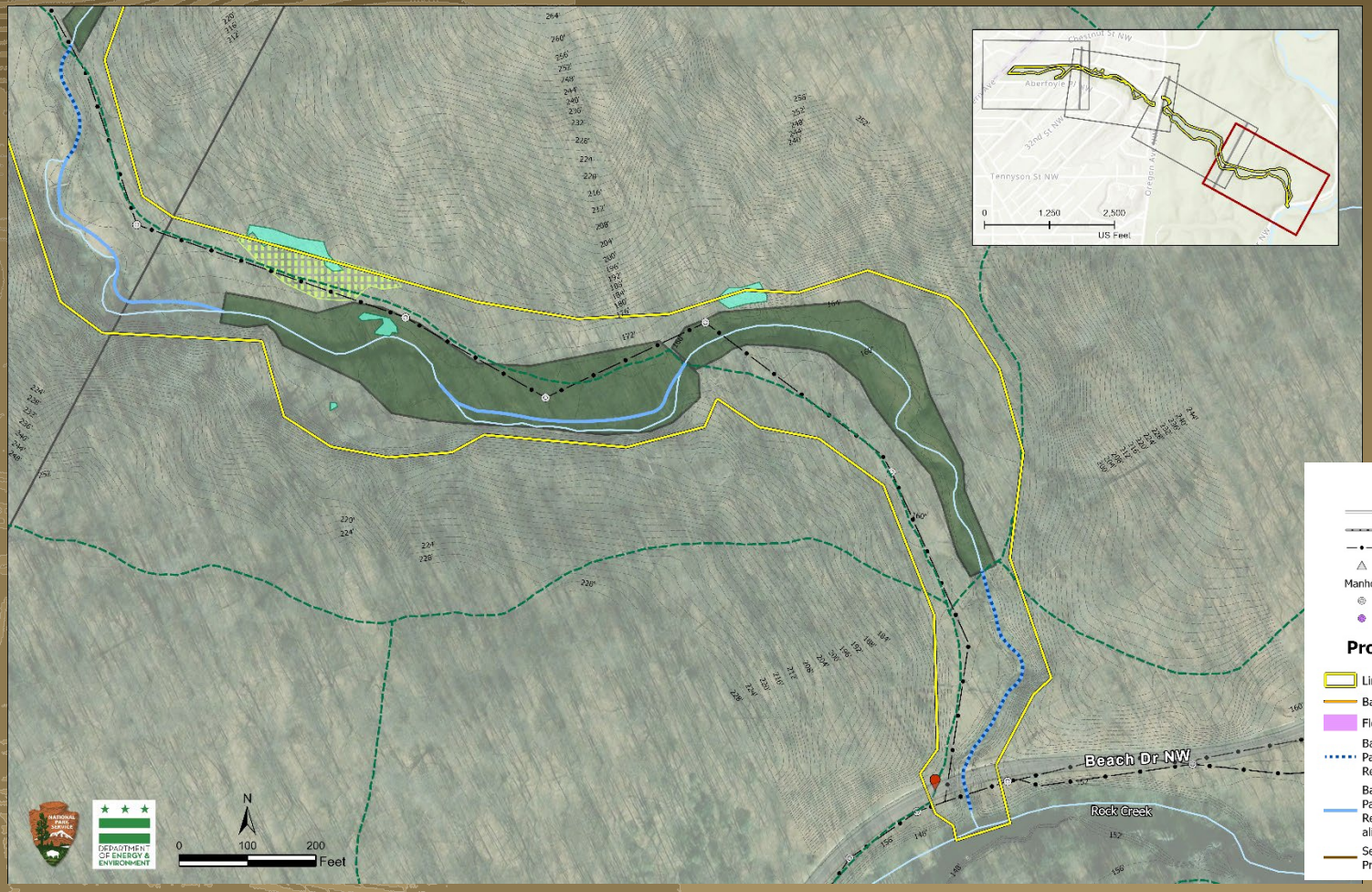
Concept Map 3



Map of Pinehurst Branch from Oregon Ave, NW, downstream approximately 1,900 feet. Map depicts the limit of work and proposed locations of stream and wetland activities.

Proposed Restoration Approaches

Concept Map 4



Map of Pinehurst Branch's downstream limits from Beach Dr, NW, upstream approximately 1,900 feet. Map depicts the limit of work and proposed locations of stream and wetland activities.

Proposed Construction Access

- Access Path Through Riparian Area
- Access Path Within Existing Channel
- Control of Water - Typical Stream Pump Around Practice
- Construction Entrance and Staging/Stockpiling Area

Proposed Construction Access

Through Riparian Area



Image shows mulch and hardwood mat construction access road navigating through a forest to avoid and minimize tree impacts. Tree protection and erosion and sediment control implemented are shown along the access road.

Proposed Construction Access
Within Existing Channel



PRE-RESTORATION CONDITION



INSTALLATION CONDITION (DEWATERING PIPES)



INSTALLATION CONDITION (FILLING CHANNEL WITH SAND AND GRADING ACCESS ROAD)



INSTALLATION CONDITION (DELIVERY OF MATERIALS)



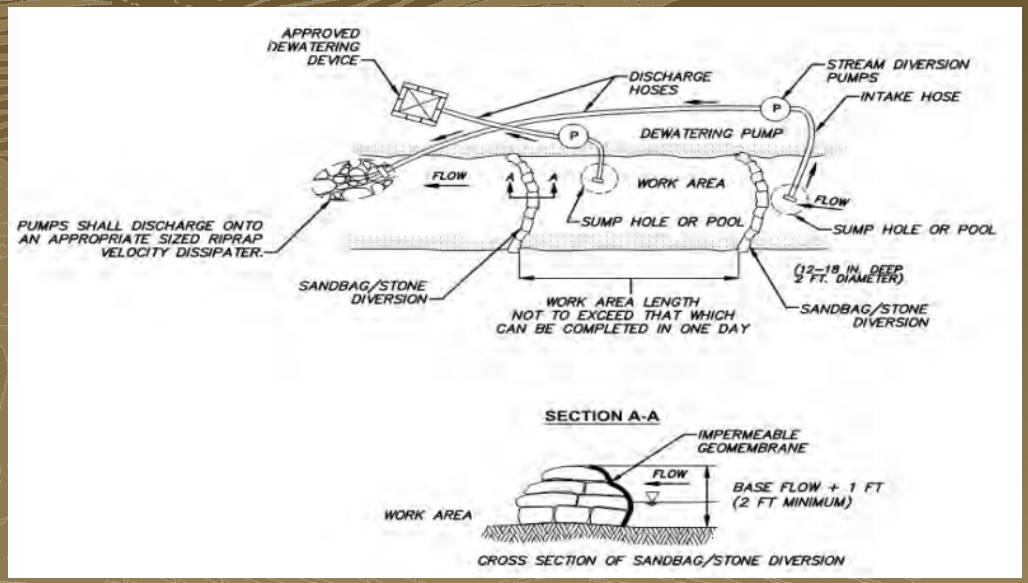
POST-RESTORATION CONDITION (BEFORE PLANTING)



POST-RESTORATION CONDITION (10 YEARS LATER)

Proposed Construction Access

Control of Water - Typical Stream Pump Around Practice



Left: Schematic of Pump Around Setup

Right: Dewatering Device (filter bag)





Left: Sandbag Diversion and fish exclusion netting

Right: Stream Diversion Pump and Discharge Hose



Proposed Construction Access

Construction Entrance and Staging/Stockpiling Areas



Image shows steel plate over a public sidewalk connecting to a gravel construction entrance. The gravel construction entrance connects to a staging/stockpile area where a construction trailer, equipment, and construction materials are stored.

Pinehurst Branch Stream and Wetland Restoration

NEXT STEPS AND HOW TO COMMENT

How can you submit comments?

- Comments must be submitted online or postmarked by October 30, 2026, to receive consideration.
  - Online Comments: Submit at National Park Service Pinehurst Branch Stream and Wetland Restoration Website

    https://parkplanning.nps.gov/pinehurstbranch
  - Written Comments: Mail to:

    Superintendent
    Attn: Pinehurst Branch Steam Restoration Project
    Rock Creek Park
    National Park Service
    3545 Williamsburg Lane NW
    Washington, DC 20008

Please Note: Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment – including your personal identifying information – may be made publicly available at any time.

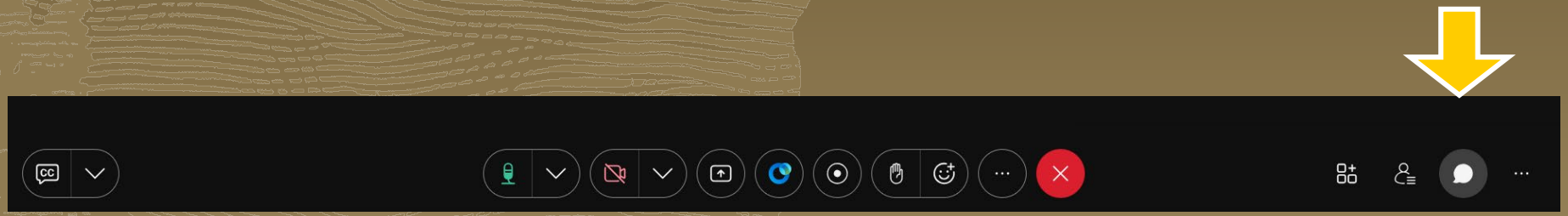
While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Pinehurst Branch Stream and Wetland Restoration

QUESTION & ANSWER

Question & Answer Instructions

- Share your questions with the project team!
- The meeting recording will be made available on PEPC site after the meeting.



Thanks for your participation!

Please contact Cecilia with any questions or concerns regarding the proposed Pinehurst Branch Stream and Wetland Restoration Project.

DOEE Project Manager:
Cecilia Lane, Environmental Protection Specialist
Phone: (202) 535-1961
Email: cecilia.lane@dc.gov

We thank you for your participation and appreciate your feedback on this project that will benefit the people, fauna, flora, and waters of the District of Columbia!



THANK YOU

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA