

Winter 2016

The Frederick Municipal Watershed is a 7,022 acre property owned by the City of Frederick. The property is located on the east side of Catoclin Mountain, 6 miles northwest of the City of Frederick. It is managed as a cooperative wildlife management area by Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MD DNR)—Wildlife. Forest management activities are under the direction of the MD DNR—Forest Service.

Forest Management

Since the last issue of this newsletter, there has been many different new and exciting things happening on the Watershed. The awesome teamwork between the City staff and DNR staff has continued to insure proper management of natural resources on the Watershed.

Perhaps the biggest forest management news to come from the Watershed in years is that the Frederick Watershed is now officially a certified Tree Farm under the American Tree Farm System!

The American Tree Farm System (ATFS) has been endorsed by the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest certification systems (PEFC) since 2008. PEFC is an independent, non-profit, non-governmental organization, founded in 1999 which promotes sustainably managed forests through independent third-party certification. PEFC provides an assurance mechanism to purchasers of wood and paper products that they are promoting the sustainable management of forests. PEFC is a global umbrella organization for the assessment of and mutual recognition of forest certification systems in various countries around the world. There are 25 PEFC endorsed forest certification systems covering more than 200 million hectares of certified forests, making PEFC the world's largest forest certification system. Forest certification systems must go through a rigorous assessment process involving public consultation and the use of independent assessors to be considered for endorse-

ment. Final endorsement is subject to a vote taken by the PEFC general membership. ATFS received its positive vote for endorsement from the PEFC membership on August 8, 2008. Affiliation with PEFC benefits certified Tree Farmers by opening doors to certified wood and forest benefits markets.

The American Tree Farm System (ATFS) forest certification certifies land management practices to a standard of sustainability. This is a third-party system of certification that conducts audits for the ATFS's 8 standards of sustainability.

The 8 standards of sustainability are as follows:

1. Commitment to Practicing Sustainable Forestry.
2. Compliance with Laws
3. Reforestation and Afforestation
4. Air, Water, and Soil Protection
5. Fish, Wildlife, Biodiversity and Forest Health
6. Forest Aesthetics
7. Protect Special Sites
8. Forest Product Harvest and Other Activities

These 8 standards have all been addressed in the 2005 Forest Stewardship Plan and the 2016 Forest Stewardship Plan Addendum.

You may ask, what does this mean for the Watershed? Are more trees going to be harvested? What benefits does this afford the Watershed and the City?

Q: What does this certification mean for the watershed?

A: This certification will

ensure that future management practices are deemed sustainable, all while taking the above standards and recreational opportunities into account.

Q: Are more trees going to be harvested?

A: Harvesting will continue on the Watershed according to the prescriptions shown in the 2005 Forest Stewardship Plan. The certification itself does not mean any more or less harvests need to be completed.

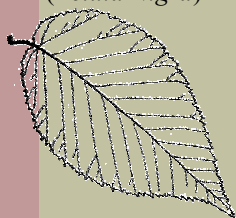
Q: What benefits does this certification afford the City of Frederick?

A: The most obvious benefit is the third-party verification of sustainable forestry practices. Beyond this, the forest product industry is trending more and more these days towards the use of certified sustainable forest products. Whether it be sawtimber sent to a sawmill, or pulpwood sent to a paper mill, more companies are seeking certified forest products.

The Maryland Forest Service has long sought to implement industry best management practices, improve water quality, protect natural and sensitive habitats and provide for sustainable recreational opportunities. This certification will validate our efforts to protect the Watershed's natural beauty, all while providing a sustainable source of forest products. It will also serve to raise public awareness of sustainable forest management.

Revenues generated by forest management on the Frederick Watershed are used in support of the daily maintenance and management efforts on the Watershed.

Black Birch
(*Betula Nigra*)



2016 Commercial Timber Stand Improvement Thinning

As was mentioned in the Winter 2015 newsletter, a commercial timber stand improvement thinning will be conducted in stand 3.1. The objective of this thinning is to increase future productivity by removing trees of poor form and the less desirable species. Increased productivity in this case means the desirable trees left after harvesting will grow with more vigor, and present as well as future oak regeneration will be released from the more aggressive species currently suppressing them.

Marking began within the proposed sale boundary in early June 2016 and was completed in early July. The contractor promptly followed suit and completed marking of the trees to be left in early August. The markings were then inspected to ensure the stand was marked according to the prescription and in accordance with the goals for the stand by the Frederick County Forestry Board. The thinning is expected to commence in mid-late October and be completed by early 2017.



Photos at Right:

Top:

Before view within stand 3.1. All the larger trees in the foreground were chosen as leave trees.

Bottom:

After view of similar stand with same prescribed thinning. This thinning was conducted by the same contractor chosen to complete the Stand 3.1 thinning.



Invasive Exotic Management

Multiflora Rose (Foliage detail)
(*Rosa multiflora*)



Multiflora Rose (Thorn detail)
(*Rosa multiflora*)



In 2016 more than a dozen invasive exotic species were treated using various chemical and mechanical methods. Of the species treated, four in particular were given priority.

Autumn olive has been a major problem at Sand Flats for years due to past planting for its high wildlife value. This year, using both foliar and basal bark methods, over 3 acres of the shrub were treated.

Ailanthus was another priority this year. Over 1400 trees throughout the watershed were treated using a variety of chemicals and techniques.

Japanese Barberry shrubs were treated on approximately 3.6 acres.

The main areas for barberry treatment included Pine Swamp and Hamburg Road.

Mile-a-minute is one of the most prolific invasive plants we focused on. The vine occurs in areas of disturbance such as roadsides and fields. Approximately 28 acres across several sites were found to contain the weed and were treated before it could go to seed. This is essential in managing mile-a-minute as the seeds remain viable in the soil for up to 7 years.

For questions or concerns please contact MD DNR Forest Service staff at 301-791-4010.

More than Just Water Quality!....Lets Talk Objectives

The Frederick City Watershed is a dynamic environment under constant stress from both human and environmental factors. These include invasive insects, plants, and diseases, as well as competing land uses. How do we balance our wants and needs with what is best for the Watershed?

The objectives for the Watershed were developed through a collaborative effort of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MD DNR), the City of Frederick, and the Frederick Parks, Streets, and Sanitation Committee, for use in the original 1980 management plan. The original seven objectives used in the 1980 plan are as sound and relevant today as they were back then. When preparing the 2005 Management Plan, further discussion between Frederick City and MD DNR resulted in the addition of an eighth objective for the property. Listed below are the eight current objectives for the Frederick City Watershed:

1. Water Quality

- Serve as a supply, current and future, of potable high quality water for the city and surrounding areas.

2. Forest Health

- Monitor conditions that promote damage from wildfire, insects, diseases, invasives and take action to prevent damage when appropriate.

3. Wildlife Habitat

- Provide quality habitat for a number of game and non-game species of fish and wildlife, all while keeping populations in balance with habitat.

4. Forest Products

- Produce a sustainable supply of forest products to provide for local needs and to provide income to offset other management activities.
- Use harvesting when appropriate to address other management objectives such as wildfire hazard reduction, habitat modification, and susceptibility to pests.

5. Education

- Provide opportunities for outdoor education, as well as opportunities for research and demonstration of watershed forestry and ecology.

6. Recreation

- Provide opportunities for public recreation such as hunting, fishing, hiking, biking and horseback riding all while minimizing their impacts on surrounding habitats and land.

7. Aesthetics

- Minimize visual impacts of harvesting, and from mortality from insects and disease, especially along main travel corridors and other public use areas.

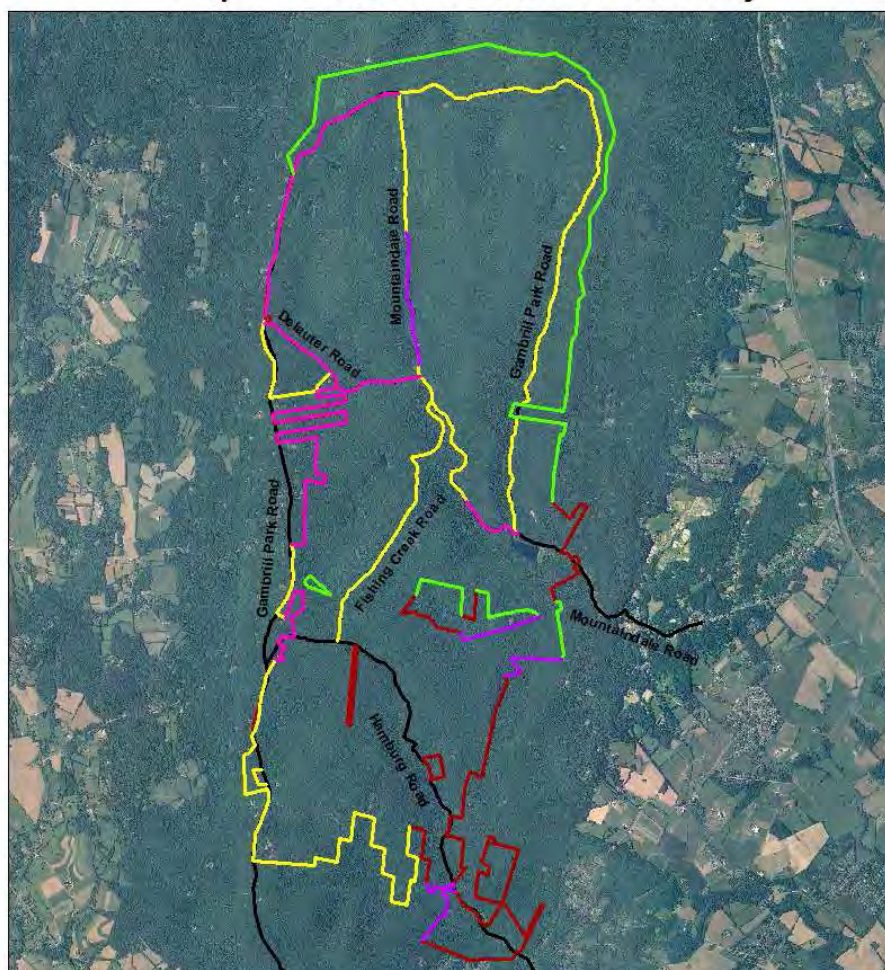
8. Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Species

- Protect RT&E species from disturbance that may effect long-term survival as well as providing for the maintenance and perpetuation of their critical habitats.

With the recent enrollment of the Watershed into the National Tree Farm System, both the City and MD DNR have reiterated their stance on keeping the Watershed a true multi-use area. Managing for these eight objectives will allow us to balance the wants and needs of land managers and citizens with what is best for the health of the Watershed. In the end, water quality is still the highest priority. As long as our activities do not negatively impact water quality, we can manage for a healthier and more usable Watershed.

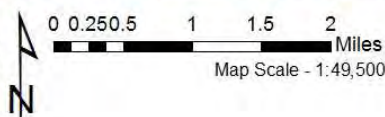
Boundary Management

Map 1 - Frederick Watershed Boundary



Legend

- 2016 Boundary Painted
- 2012 Boundary Painted
- 2014/15 Boundary Painted
- 2013 Boundary Painted
- FCW Boundary Current



For over 10 years boundary management has been an ongoing effort in the watershed. In 2006-2007 the property corners were recovered, and since then efforts have been made to connect the corners and establish a visible property line.

Over 2 miles of new boundary line was established and an additional 1.35 miles of line was repainted during winter 2015/16 (represented in dark purple on the map to the left.)

Focus for winter 2016/17 will be to continue establishing line along the eastern edge, with priority given to the Mountaindale Road and lower Hamburg Road areas. New properties were acquired in these areas in recent years, adding acreage to the watershed. The additions of new parcels to these areas rendered prior corners and boundary obsolete. Maryland DNR Forest Service staff will be working closely with Frederick City surveyors to ensure accurate and precise marking of these areas.

Frederick Municipal Watershed Management Update

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ABOVE: A map of the current boundary completion on the Frederick City Watershed



Entering the Watershed



Leaving the Watershed