Myths About the Stream Restoration Program

This is the only way we can get credits for protecting the Chesapeake Bay

- Many other methods are known to reduce sediment and nutrients in streams.
- Floodplain reconnection is only one method. The "wholistic and comprehensive" approach suggested fails to retain existing sections that are well-functioning and raising the potential for future failures
- Other methods of slowing or preventing stormwater flows from the watershed could be implemented for Chesapeake credits.

This method is necessary to protect utilities in the stream bed.

- The water line could be easily hardened as has been done with other sites around the county
- The small drainage line that crosses the stream can be easily relocated
- These repairs could be accomplished at much lower cost than the proposed design

The project requires heavy equipment to move earth and move large boulders to create step pools

- Step pools can be created using smaller boulders or other techniques that do not require equipment that is so large.
- Residential construction in the Donaldson Run area has demonstrated that much smaller equipment can be used successfully to move large boulders.
- Landowners adjacent to the restoration areas are concerned that the project could destabilize their steep yards sloping to the stream.

Many trees to be removed have been damaged and undermined by the stream and the impacts on trees canopy will be minimized

- The vast majority of the 81 trees identified for removal (including some trees over 30" diameter) are not damaged or undermined and are only being removed for access for the heavy equipment.
- The design fails to acknowledge that the root pruning identified for an additional 52 trees will likely result in the loss of some of those trees
- The tree inventory fails to list all trees down to 2" diameter.
- The over 200 2" saplings scheduled for replanting will be insignificant in their contribution to air quality, health, aesthetics, etc. compared to the extensive benefits lost from the mature trees.

The Tributary A project has been successful from environmental and infrastructure perspectives

- The design and construction has had serious problems including incorrect stream channel depth, plantings washed away by flood waters, and a bridge built too low causing overflow flooding
- Some sections currently show further degradation of the designed structures that will require assessments and repairs. This could require ongoing restorations in the future at a high cost.
- Some of the pools create low flows or stagnant conditions that lead to murky water and breeding grounds for mosquitos.
- Sun-loving Invasive plants exposed by the removal of the tree canopy continue to require annual spraying of herbicides next to the stream.