

WOODWINDS COUNCIL OF CO-OWNERS

AD HOC EROSION COMMITTEE

REPORT OF MEETING

Subject: Erosion at Rear of 11646 – 11656 ISC

Date: Wednesday, May 23, 2007

Time: 4:00 pm EDT

Location: Woodwinds

Attendees:

Name / Position	Phone	Email Address
Nicki Foremsky, RA Watershed Manager	703 435 6560	nicki@reston.org
Eric Orr, Woodwinds Treasurer	703 715 1172	eric_va8@yahoo.com
Teri Jaeger, Woodwinds Board Member	703 620 2856	tjwoodwinds@att.net

Background

The area at the rear of 11646 through 11656 Ivystone Court, between the back wall of the units and the wooded area, is very sparsely vegetated, and there is a great deal of bare earth. The area also experiences a lot of overland water flow when it rains, and the area is eroding rapidly, particularly the area just off the northwest corner of the living room patio of 11646 Ivystone Court. There are holes in the soil, and exposed tree roots, and the bank of the storm drain channel is badly eroded.

Nicki Foremsky, RA Watershed Manager, had previously walked the area in August 2006, with Vee Boehringer, RA Cluster Outreach, and community member Judith Amstutz. Subsequently Nicki sent Judith a letter (attached) in which she indicated that Woodwinds had received a Reforesting Grant from RA many years ago for the area in question. The land is therefore part of Woodwinds, but must remain forested. She also indicated that Fairfax County holds an easement in the area for storm drain maintenance, and she suggested contacting the county's Maintenance and Stormwater Management Division to request an inspection of the drain. (Riddell did so in early May 2007, but we have not received a report to date.)

In that letter, Nicki also recommended:

- Filling in the voids near the edge of the bank with gravel and/or larger rock
- Installing gutters and directing the water to a drainage swale, which could be either a rock lined channel or a rain garden (perforated pipe under an area with native plant species)
- Planting a ground cover as a substitute for grass in the entire area, since RA has found that grass has not done well in other shaded areas in Reston with similar soils

Meeting Notes

We began our meeting by looking at the area, and briefly discussing Nicki's recommendations.

Teri explained that the buildings had been designed without gutters on the rear, and that Woodwinds' experiments with retrofitting gutters had not been successful. There doesn't seem to be a way to mount gutters that allows access for cleaning them, and with the abundance of tree litter they clogged frequently, which only exacerbated both interior leaks and exterior erosion.

Nicki reiterated that one low cost thing that could be done immediately to help stem the rapid erosion at the edge of the bank would be to fill in the voids there with gravel and larger stone.

Nicki suggested that Woodwinds first extend the area of heavy rip rap in the stormwater drainage channel, and also add "fingers" of large stone in each of several areas where surface water drains into the channel. She suggested we work with Colonial Greene on this, since there are problems developing on their side of the storm drain as well. She indicated that RA requires that the heavy rip rap be dark charcoal in color, like what is there now. Large stone can be lighter in color, but should be chosen to blend in with the surroundings. She indicated that the stone could be put in place using a bobcat or something similar, to minimize the damage to the area.

After rip rap and stone is placed in the storm drainage channel, the following issues in the area between the building and the wooded area can be addressed:

- Water coming off the building needs to be directed perpendicular to the building, back to a drainage swale or rain garden, rather than allowed to travel overland roughly parallel to the building
- Appropriate vegetation needs to be cultivated

Nicki discussed work that RA has done with a company in Merrifield, Mulch Solutions, using the FILTREXX product line. FILTERSOXX are basically tubes, about a foot or so in diameter, that are filled with composted material. They can be staked in place along bank edges, or used to form terraces. Topsoil and other growing mediums can be "blown in" behind them. She explained how this product might be used in this area, (see attached map for a rough idea), and suggested we might find it useful to discuss this in more detail with Chris Hunt of Mulch Solutions. Nicki "guesstimated" that using FILTERSOXX in this way might be in the \$5,000 range.

Nicki recommended that we look at using ferns and other shade tolerant solutions to vegetate this area. She told us that Claudia Thompson, RA Environmental Resources Specialist, would be a good resource for us in selected appropriate vegetation.

Nicki indicated that RA has worked with Mulch Solutions on the area at the outlet of the Lake Anne dam. (After crossing the dam on northbound Wiehle Avenue, park on Inlet Court and then cross Wiehle and go down the hill.) They are also working with Mulch Solutions on the area at the outlet of the Lake Audubon dam, on Twin Branches Road, though this is still in the planning stages.

Nicki indicated that it takes six months or so for the FILTERSOXX to start to be vegetated. Nicki can provide us with some pictures that will help us get a better idea. (The FILTREXX website, at www.filtrexx.com, also has a lot of project photos of their various products in use, some before, during installation, after.)

Nicki indicated that a project of this type would need to be approved by the Reston Design Board. She also said that working with RA throughout the planning process would be helpful.

We also talked briefly about some other areas in the Woodwinds community, such as the area near the pavilion, where the Woodwinds path meets the RA path, and the area at the rear of 2100 through 2110 Green Watch Way. Nicki indicated that in areas such as these, coconut matting, with ferns or other appropriate plants planted thru the matting, might be an alternative to additional river stone. Nicki did recommend that an appropriate geo-tech fabric be used under any stone.

Additional Resources

Mulch Solutions
PO Box 2864
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Contact: Chris Hunt
703 876 6150
703 380 8611 Cell
chris@mulchsolutions.com

FILTREXX product line
www.filtrexx.com