Scenic River Program

In 1976 the main channel of Goose Creek in Loudoun County was designated "Scenic" and entered into the Virginia Scenic River Program. In 2007, the designation was extended in Fauquier County, state code § 10.1-411.

The Program's intent is to identify, designate and help protect rivers and streams that possess outstanding scenic, recreational, historic and natural characteristics of statewide significance for future generations. This program is managed by the state and should not be confused with the federal Department of the Interior's Wild and Scenic Rivers Program. One of the program's strengths is the partnership forged between citizens, local governments and the state. This partnership begins in the evaluation phase and continues through and after the designation process.

Benefits of Scenic Designation in the program:

- Encourages closer review of projects and proposals by state agencies and localities.
- Requires General Assembly authorization for dams.
- Provides for continued existing appropriate riparian land uses.
- Allows for project review and monitoring of designated river segments by governor-appointed Virginia Scenic River Board.

Scenic Designation does not:

- Designation does not give the state control over land use.
- Designation carries with it no land use controls.
- Designation does not give the public any right to use privately owned land.
- Virginia does not commercially promote its scenic rivers.
- Recreational use of the rivers currently in the Scenic Rivers System has not increased any more than the use of high quality streams that are not in the system.

Full details about Virginia’s Scenic River Program are available at:
http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/recreational_planning/srmain.shtml

Help us preserve and protect Goose Creek!

A State-Appointed Committee, supported in part by Loudoun County Government.

For meeting schedules and minutes, visit:
http://townhall.virginia.gov
and search for “Goose Creek”

E-mail: GooseCreekRiver@yahoo.com
www.loudounwatershedwatch.org/scenicriver

The Goose says: “Get Involved!”
Rapid growth and urban development can alter the scenic beauty and stream health and potentially impact Goose Creek unless steps are taken to protect the river and its banks and shores.

Goose Creek, a main source of drinking water to Loudoun County, originates in the Blue Ridge Mountains and travels 48 miles through Fauquier and Loudoun before discharging into the Potomac River.

The Advisory Committee meets routinely to review proposed land use changes and development activities. Applicants often incorporate suggestions and alter their development plans which will help preserve the scenic buffer.

**What can you do?**
Anyone who enjoys the benefits and scenic beauty of Goose Creek must be an active participant in its stewardship. If you are a creek-bordering landowner, you can be instrumental in preserving the Creek while increasing the value of your property and receiving tax credits as well.

**Plant a tree**
A "riparian buffer" of trees and bushes will not only retain the scenic views along the Creek’s banks, but it will provide effective flood control and protect against bank erosion. Also, this buffer would provide food and habitat for wildlife, moderate the water temperatures and be the foundation for greenways and wildlife corridors.

**Clean and Maintain**
Regularly monitoring your creekline for litter and debris will further enhance the quality of the Creek and its neighboring environment.