

The photo and drawing above show National Park land that connects Marvin Gaye Park to Fort Mahan Park at the intersection of Hunt Place and 42nd Street. An open drainage swale that directs storm runoff to Watts Branch runs through this under-used park land. This land and the drainage swale offer a great opportunity to use green infrastructure to create a functional and beautiful link between Marvin Gaye Park and Fort Mahan.

The drawing at right illustrates how tree plantings and modifications of the existing drainage swale could strengthen the connection between Marvin Gaye Park and Fort Mahan. This design imagines tree placement that creates well-defined gathering spaces and paths. A widened swale with new wetland plantings would improve the quality of stormwater by slowing it down and allowing pollutants to settle before reaching Watts Branch. The street tree planter shown in the foreground would collect stormwater from the street, allowing it to seep into the ground or overflow into the conventional system in a very large storm.



Hunt Place



Prepared for:
CASEY TREES

Design Research by:
UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA
SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE

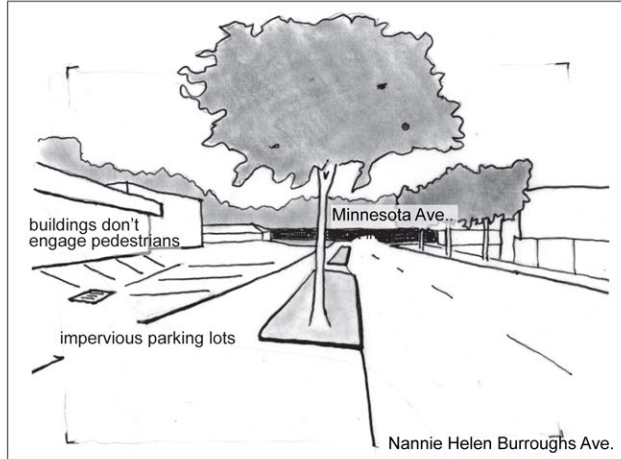
GREEN CONNECTION: FORT MAHAN AND MARVIN GAYE PARK

GREEN NEIGHBORHOOD, GREEN WATERSHED:
Greening the Watts Branch Stream Valley

15 August 2006



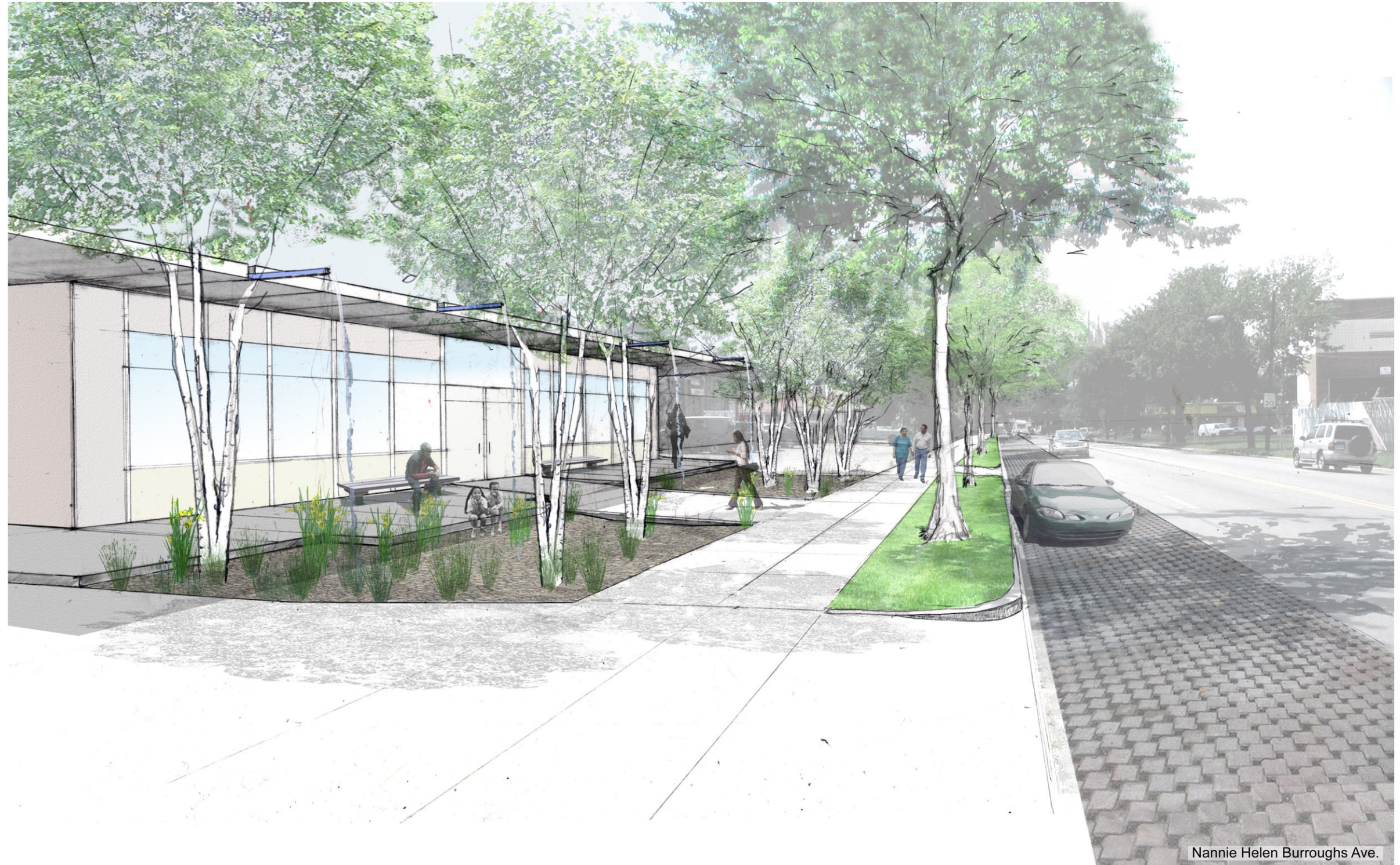
Nannie Helen Burroughs Ave.



Nannie Helen Burroughs Ave.

The drawing and photo above show the lack of consistent, healthy tree canopy on Nannie Helen Burroughs Avenue and the failure of buildings to engage the pedestrian environment. These conditions create a series of barren parking lots and crumbling sidewalks which are hot, unpleasant places to be.

The drawing at right imagines Nannie Helen Burroughs Avenue as a local arterial linking the cultural environment of schools, homes, churches and businesses with the ecological environment of public gardens, parks, tributaries and trails. Planting healthy street trees in ample planting strips, and redesigning existing buildings and parking lots to include permeable paving, more trees, rain gardens and vegetated swales would create a welcoming environment for pedestrians and generate more economic activity for businesses. Creating places to sit in the shade and observe life on the street would extend the reach of Watts Branch park corridor onto the parallel corridor of Nannie Helen Burroughs Avenue.



Nannie Helen Burroughs Ave.



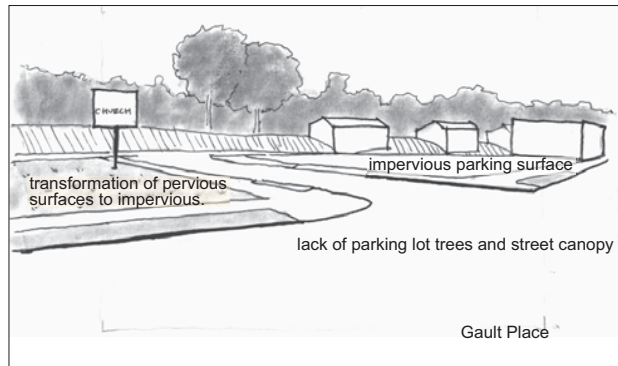
Prepared for:
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SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE

GREEN GREAT STREET: NANNIE HELEN BURROUGHS AVENUE

15 August 2006

GREEN NEIGHBORHOOD, GREEN WATERSHED:
Greening the Watts Branch Stream Valley



The photo and diagram above show two parking lots that sit opposite one another at the intersection of Gault Place and 46th Street. They are both used by congregation members from a variety of different neighborhoods, primarily on Sunday for church services. During the rest of the week they remain mostly vacant. One of the parking lots has an impervious asphalt surface which increases flooding and pollution in nearby Watts Branch stream during heavy rain. The other lot is covered in gravel and grass, a porous parking surface that lets water seep into the ground slowly, rather than rush into storm sewers.

The drawing at right re-imagines these parking lots as places that could accommodate multiple activities throughout the week. The parking lots could be utilized as public space when not used by the congregation. Using pervious surfaces, such as grass pavers or gravel would reduce the flooding and polluting effects of paved surfaces and would allow trees to be planted throughout the parking lots to provide shade and shape spaces for a variety of events, from parking to picnics to play space.



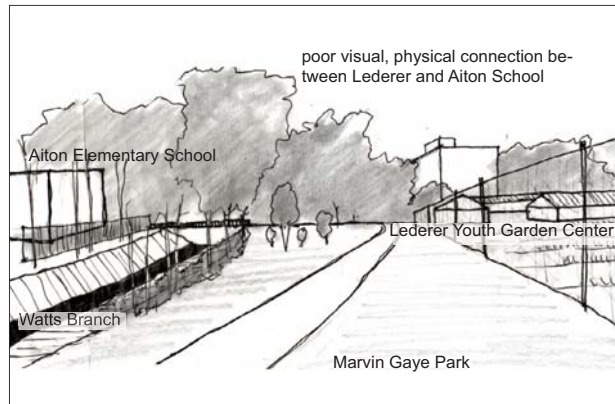
Prepared for:
CASEY TREES

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BRINGING THE PARK INTO THE PARKING LOT

GREEN NEIGHBORHOOD, GREEN WATERSHED:
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15 August 2006



The photo and drawing above show the stretch of Marvin Gaye Park and Watts Branch that threads between Aiton Elementary School and Lederer Youth Gardens and Education Center. The poor visual and physical connections across the stream between the two education centers and lack of access to the stream banks hinders the opportunity to connect Aiton and Lederer and to make the stream a living classroom.

The drawing at right suggests clarifying physical, visual, and institutional connections between Aiton Elementary, Watts Branch, Marvin Gaye Park, and Lederer Youth Gardens. This could be accomplished by new pedestrian bridges, selective clearing of some understory plants, and the creation of streamside seating for outdoor classrooms. This intersection of stream, park, and education presents great opportunities for curriculum and activities that foster stewardship of the watershed.

THIS DESIGN IDEA HAS NOT BEEN REVIEWED OR APPROVED BY WASHINGTON D.C. DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION



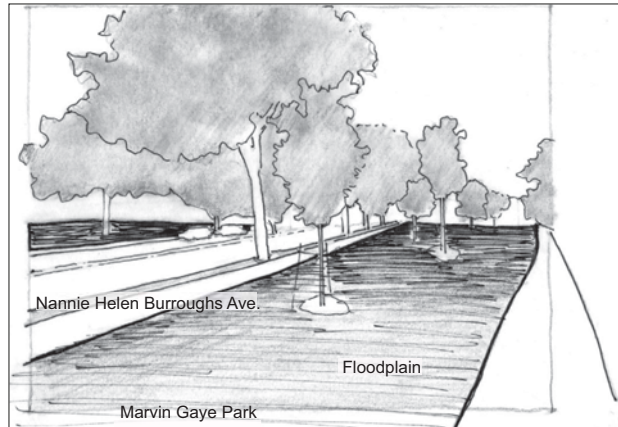
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STREAM VALLEY EDUCATION / STREAM VALLEY STEWARDSHIP

15 August 2006

GREEN NEIGHBORHOOD, GREEN WATERSHED:
Greening the Watts Branch Stream Valley



The photo and diagram above show an under-utilized section of Marvin Gaye Park where Nannie Helen Burroughs Avenue and the park intersect. In this location, Watts Branch is culverted underground and there is no acknowledgement of the broad floodplain where the stream historically rose to deposit silt and slow its pace.

The drawing at right imagines a native tree nursery in or near this location that would grow and sell floodplain tree species. These tree species could also be planted as street trees throughout the floodplain. Strengthening the identity of this stream corridor with native plants would help convey the experience of traveling through a series of stream valley rooms. The sunken planting strips shown between the sidewalk and street would slow and filter storm runoff from Nannie Helen Burroughs Avenue.

Green enterprises of this type could generate economic vitality in the community and simultaneously create healthier, more inviting places for recreation and activity in the park and the adjacent streets and neighborhoods.



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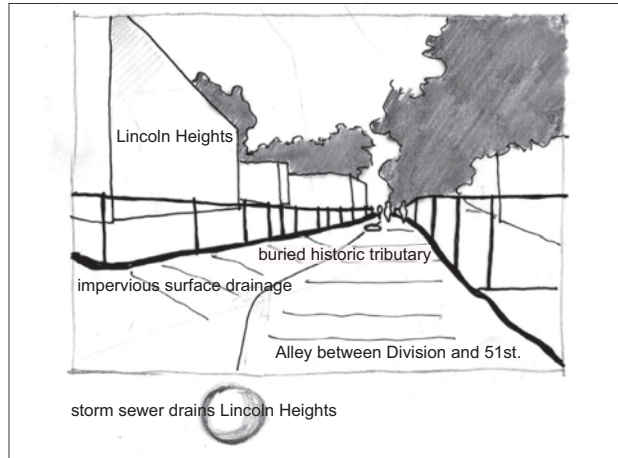
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GREEN ENTERPRISE IN THE FLOODPLAIN: NATIVE TREE NURSERY

15 August 2006

GREEN NEIGHBORHOOD, GREEN WATERSHED:
Greening the Watts Branch Stream Valley



The photo and diagram above show the alley behind Lincoln Heights, parallel to Division Avenue. This alley is built over an historic tributary, which now runs in a pipe underground, carrying stormwater and pollutants into Watts Branch. Currently, the community of Lincoln Heights is isolated and disconnected from the surrounding neighborhood on the bluff, and from the park and stream in the valley below.

The re-design of Lincoln Heights presents an immense opportunity to enhance residents' quality of life and improve the cultural and ecological health of the Watts Branch stream valley.

The drawing at right shows how this alley could be redesigned to provide shady, inviting canopy over a network of pedestrian links from the new Lincoln Heights out to Division Avenue and the surrounding neighborhoods and down to the park and stream. With a curvilinear plan and lush, vegetated bioswales, the alley could filter pollutants from stormwater and reduce flooding and the negative impacts of severe storm events on Watts Branch.



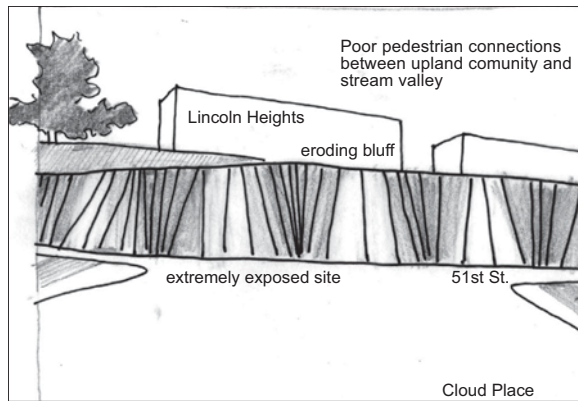
Prepared for:
CASEY TREES

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PARK REACHES: CONNECTING LINCOLN HEIGHTS TO THE STREAM VALLEY

GREEN NEIGHBORHOOD, GREEN WATERSHED:
Greening the Watts Branch Stream Valley

15 August 2006



The photo and diagram above show the view to Lincoln Heights from the intersection of Cloud Place and 51st Street. The steep bluffs and location of buildings on leveled terraces separate the community from the surrounding neighborhood and from the park and stream in the valley below. The steep slopes are unsuitable for tree planting or recreation. During heavy rain storms water gushes down these slopes, flooding streets and carrying soil erosion and pollutants into Watts Branch. The re-design of Lincoln Heights presents an immense opportunity to enhance residents' quality of life and improve the cultural and ecological health of the Watts Branch stream valley.

The drawing at right illustrates the possibility of a new Lincoln Heights where these edges become gateways into the community, providing shady, inviting canopy over a series of ramps and benches leading to the surrounding neighborhoods. Complimented with terraced water gardens and vegetated slopes, the gateway spaces could filter pollutants from storm water and reduce flooding and the negative impacts of severe storm events on Watts Branch.



Cloud Place



Prepared for:
CASEY TREES

Design Research by:
UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA
SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE

LINCOLN HEIGHTS: BUILDING GREEN ON THE BLUFF

GREEN NEIGHBORHOOD, GREEN WATERSHED:
Greening the Watts Branch Stream Valley

15 August 2006