



## Information Fact Sheet: Environmental Stewardship

# FORT BELVOIR



### BASE REALIGNMENT AND CLOSURE ACT OF 2005

The implementation of the Base Realignment and Closure Act of 2005 (BRAC) at Fort Belvoir includes 20 separate projects with a total of nearly 6.2 million square feet of building space, 7 million square feet of parking structures and areas, and an overall construction cost of approximately \$4 billion. The renovation of existing facilities and construction of new facilities are well under way to support a net gain of approximately 19,300 military and civilian employees at Fort Belvoir. The law requires implementation of the BRAC Commission's decisions by Sept. 15, 2011.

### ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

Environmental stewardship is a major focus of the installation staff throughout planning and construction. Examples include:

- **Tree Replacement** – The installation's policy is to plant two trees for every one tree removed during the construction of BRAC 2005 projects. Every tree four inches in diameter or larger that is removed during construction will be replaced with two landscape trees, two inches in diameter. Accordingly, several thousand trees will be planted as a result of the construction of the BRAC 2005 projects at Fort Belvoir.
- **Migratory Bird Nest Surveys** – For most species, the Northern Virginia breeding season occurs from May 15 to July 15. Contractors were encouraged to conduct land clearing operations prior to or after the nesting season. In the event that the contractors could not do so, the Environmental and Natural Resources Division (ENRD) and members of the environmental team in Fort Belvoir's BRAC Operations Office conducted bird nest surveys to avoid destroying active bird nests. When an active nest was found, the area was flagged and not disturbed until after the young birds fledged the nest.

### PROTECTION OF THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES

Protective measures are being implemented for two species that are found in the Fort Belvoir North Area. The Small Whorled Pogonia (*Isotria medeoloides*) is listed as a federally threatened species by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Prior to groundbreaking, a construction exclusion zone was marked off and monitoring is currently being conducted of this area while construction is ongoing. The Wood Turtle (*Clemmys insculpta*) is listed as a state threatened species by the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. Prior to all land clearing activities, surveys were conducted to ensure that wood turtles were not present within the construction limits of disturbance. Contractors were educated on identification and what to do in the event that a wood turtle is found during construction.



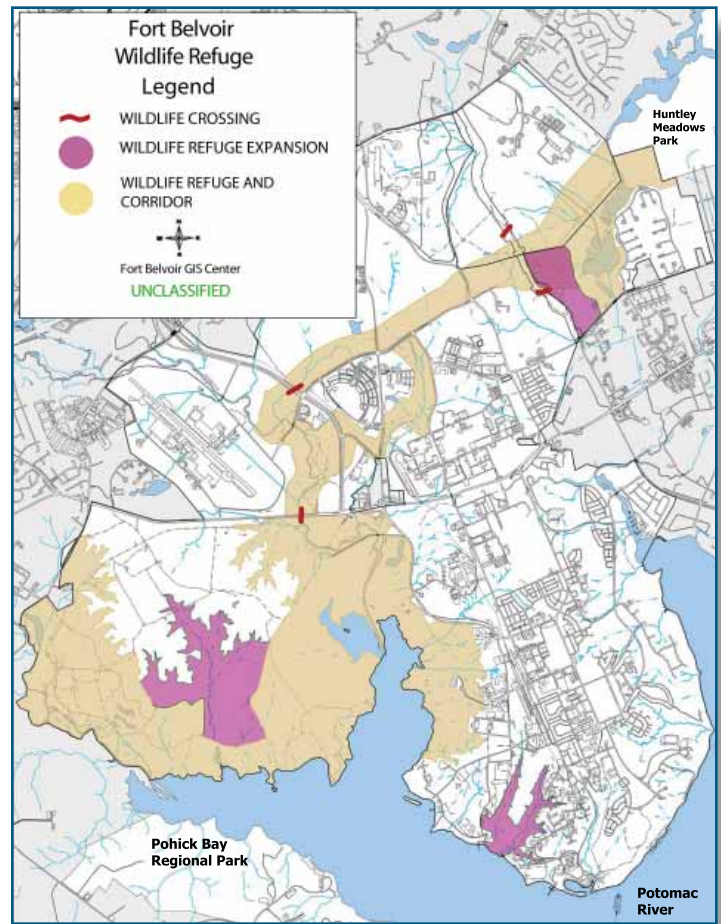
*An Eastern Bluebird tree cavity nest (center of photo) was protected from tree cutting until the young birds fledged the nest.*

## ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM COMPLIANCE

The environmental team in Fort Belvoir's BRAC Operations Office works closely with the ENRD to ensure that the BRAC construction projects comply with local, state, and federal environmental laws and that mitigation measures, as identified during the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) process, are accomplished. Examples of environmental program compliance include:

- **Air Quality** – Each contractor on a BRAC project site is responsible for preparing a construction performance plan that identifies measures to reduce the negative effects of BRAC construction activity on air quality in the National Capital Region. These measures include restricting the use of large horsepower equipment on critical ozone days, using ultra-low sulfur diesel fuel, instituting idling restrictions on construction equipment, and requiring the use of construction equipment that meets the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) new emission standards.
- **Wetlands** – During the design-build process, wetlands were either avoided, when feasible, or impacts on wetlands were reduced. To mitigate for wetlands that could not be avoided, either wetland credits were purchased to allow for the creation and/or preservation of wetlands off-site or, as in the case of the new community hospital, wetlands enhancement (e.g., stream restoration) was performed on-site.
- **Stormwater Management** – Many of the BRAC projects had space limitations that required the utilization of innovative stormwater detention methods that were integrated into the projects' design. These included the use of underground stormwater detention, sand filters, tree box filters, porous pavement, bioretention basins and swales. Reducing the impacts of stormwater runoff associated with new construction will help to sustain water resources, protect flora and fauna dependent on surface water or groundwater, provide water quality benefits, and recharge aquifers.

Environmental program compliance is accomplished through close communication and coordination between the installation, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), incoming tenant partners, contractors and the environmental regulatory community.



Fort Belvoir Wildlife Refuge

## MITIGATION

During the NEPA process, ENRD, various regulatory agencies and the public identified mitigation recommendations. As of spring 2010, \$4.7 million has been allocated to implement the following mitigations:

- Invasive/exotic vegetation control
- Removal of impervious surfaces
- Stream habitat restoration
- Partners in Flight (PIF) habitat restoration
- Wildlife crossings
- Expansion of wildlife refuge (as depicted above)

### KEEP IN TOUCH

Be the first to hear about upcoming events and construction activities at Fort Belvoir.

*We encourage you to subscribe to our mailing list if you would like to receive our newsletters via mail and/or receive announcements and other construction-related information via e-mail.*

*To subscribe to our mailing list or to receive additional information, please call 1-877-BNV-2424 (1-877-268-2424) or send an e-mail to [info@belvoirnewvision.com](mailto:info@belvoirnewvision.com). Please visit our web site at [www.belvoirnewvision.com](http://www.belvoirnewvision.com).*

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