

## Miller Run – off Rockhaven Road Sub-Watershed Investigation (Wednesday, June 6, 2007)

(Participating Stream Watch Committee Team members: Kit Valentine and Jim Apgar)

On Wednesday, June 6, 2007, FPVHG stream team members rode bikes along a section of trail within the Baltimore County side of the Hollofield Area of Patapsco Valley State Park. This area of the trail has gates blocking off the middle section of Rockhaven Road where it goes through Patapsco State Park, which has precluded recent dumping. The trail (part of the old Rockhaven Road) is near Drawde Court, off St. Johnsbury Road (ADC Map locations 40 H1 and 32 H13), and the other end of this section of the trail is near Rest Avenue, off Westchester Avenue (ADC Map location 40 H2).

Along the section of trail, we observed several rusted out car bodies (in movable pieces), old washing machines, assorted pieces from abandoned metal objects and other heavy junk items. The metal pieces were not that heavy, but were some distance from the previously mentioned gate off Drawde Court. An area cleanup is badly needed in this area, with adult volunteers to be able to remove the heavy debris. A pickup truck will be needed to move the majority of heavy bulk items, which are located approximately 300 yards from the gate. A truck can negotiate the trail without tree cutting or clearing. We estimate there is approximately two tons of scrap metal to be removed from this area.

This location is in an area of the park uphill from Union Dam. After speaking with neighbors, we understand that Rockhaven Road, prior to being acquired by the state park, was accessible by the public and used as a local dump area prior to the county landfill being established. We believe the metal pieces were dumped in the 1940s-1950s. This “dump site” and car bodies are on slopes which drain into the Patapsco River. It is essential that the junk and debris be removed as soon as possible to prevent junk and trash ending up in the river and riverbanks. The park has installed locked gates, blocking off access to the state park section of Grayhaven Road so vehicles no longer have easy access to this area and has stopped the dumping of heavy junk items.

Recommendations:

FPVHG: work with state park to schedule trash cleanup inside park property near Rockhaven Road.

### Attachments

The attached photos were taken of the type of trash found in this area. These photos have also been posted at <http://patapscofriend.myphotoalbum.com> under the folder “Miller Run – Rockhaven Road – Future Cleanup.”