

Friends of Deckers Creek Mitigation Policy

Overall Mitigation recommendations

1. If declining the mitigation funds will stop the destruction of another stream then FODC cannot accept the mitigation funding.
2. Acceptance of mitigation funding should at all times be consistent with the mission of FODC.
3. FODC should consider public opinion of the project generating the funding.
4. FODC should not accept mitigation funds for impacts that it deems unnecessary or inappropriate. Accepting the funds would be seen as condoning the actions producing the impacts.
5. Acceptance of funds comes with the responsibility of FODC to make every reasonable effort to educate the public about the source of the funds, the government policy that makes mitigation funding possible, and how the funds are used to improve Deckers Creek.
6. Based on the amount of mitigation funding, every effort should be made to remedy the largest amount of pollution that can be cleaned up by the funds being provided
7. Redevelopment projects should be given stronger consideration to new development projects as a source of the funds.

Mitigation for Impacts within the Deckers Creek Watershed

1. The development project generating the mitigation requirements must demonstrate that all impacts have been minimized.
2. FODC acceptance of mitigation funds should be used only to facilitate development and implementation of a mitigation plan. Acceptance of funds by FODC should not be used to determine whether or not proposed impacts are "allowable." It should be used to determine whether proposed mitigation is "acceptable" given the permitted impacts.
3. Whenever possible, mitigation for allowable impacts in the Deckers Creek watershed should be directed in the same general region as the permitted impacts (e.g., upstream of quarry vs. downstream of quarry).

4. Whenever possible, mitigation efforts should be directed at the highest restoration and protection priorities identified in the Deckers Creek Watershed Based Plan.
5. FODC must demonstrate the benefits to environmental and ecological conditions in Deckers Creek resulting from use of mitigation funds.
6. FODC should have a transparent policy for what percent of mitigation funds are needed for administrative costs and what percent will go directly to producing environmental benefits.

Mitigation for Impacts outside of the Deckers Creek Watershed

1. FODC will not actively solicit mitigation funds for impacts to streams outside of the Monongahela River watershed, although FODC will consider these opportunities as they arise.
2. FODC will not accept mitigation funds for impacts in sub watersheds of the Monongahela River that have active watershed organizations (e.g., Friends of Cheat), unless it receives written permission from those organizations.
3. FODC will cooperate with other watershed organizations to determine the proper use of mitigation funds for impacts in sub watersheds that do not have an active organization or watershed improvement plan. Preference should be given to the watershed organization operating nearest to the impacted stream.

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