



4. ESTABLISH A WILDLIFE REFUGE ALONG BALLINGER CREEK



Esmont Purple Martin Houses

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Ballinger Creek runs through the historic village of Esmont, (the Village), mostly in an area that is a flood plain, creating a situation ideal for a Wildlife Refuge.

BENEFIT TO THE COMMUNITY: Building a boardwalk and planting native plants to attract birds, ducks, and other wildlife, would bring life and beauty to that area which could be used for education and research. Creating this outdoor attraction would bring visitors to Esmont elevating its image as a destination.

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER PROJECTS: The Trail will run along the Refuge, and the Fulfillment Farm property, owned by the Virginia Wildlife Foundation, abuts some of this property which will attract visitors to all three improvements.

ESTIMATED COST: Land acquisition and building the boardwalk will cost approximately \$200,000.

SUSTAINABILITY OF PROJECT: This is a low maintenance project that can be maintained by volunteers.