

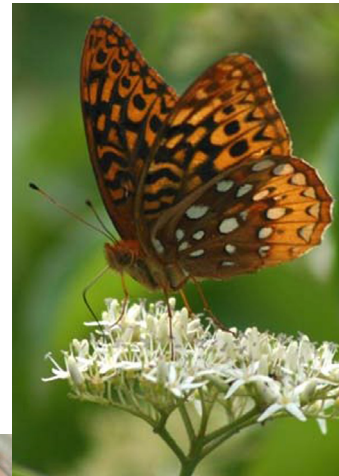
Natural Beauty in Our Powerline Corridor



Photo by Rick Giammaria Courtesy of Pepco Holdings, Inc.

Imagine the Pepco Right-of-Way bursting with birds, butterflies, and wildflowers!

At the urging of the Friends of Sligo Creek, Pepco will reduce its mowing schedule in the powerline corridor between New Hampshire Avenue and East-West Highway. Starting in 2008, mowing will occur just once a year (in the fall) rather than six times a year. This new approach will allow native grasses and wildflowers to grow, attracting butterflies and birds to a previously barren landscape, greatly enhancing the natural beauty of the corridor.



Photos by Albert Hartley

Butterflies, Birds & Wildflowers

In the meadow's first couple of years, **native grasses** will dominate the corridor, along with a smattering of flowers like the milkweed on which monarch **butterflies** feed. In subsequent years, more wildflowers will join the mix, their nectar attracting a wider range of butterflies, from swallowtails and fritillaries to hairstreaks and glassywings. **Birds** that build their nests among tall grasses may also arrive: towhee, common yellowthroat, brown thrasher, and even indigo bunting. We can also expect more visits by our resident hawks and owls.



Great spangled fritillary butterfly (above) and red admiral butterfly in Sligo Creek Park.

Let Pepco know you support the new mowing schedule (which is on a trial basis) by writing to Wesley L. McNealy, Manager, Corporate Environmental Services, 701 9th St., NW, Washington, DC 20001, or wlmcnealy@pepco.com.

A Place to Walk & Enjoy Nature

The corridor's longstanding footpath will weave in and out of the meadow and remain a popular route for walks and biking. Regular visitors may forge new paths across the meadow. Pepco will mow a 25-foot buffer on either side of the meadow all spring and summer. As usual, the Prince George's County Department of Parks will mow on either side of the paved walkway along the creek. Every fall, Pepco will mow the entire corridor.



Simulated view of the meadow.



Capturing butterflies in the Pepco corridor.

Pepco's Many Meadows

More than 7,000 acres of meadow habitat are already managed by Pepco along its 10,000 acres of powerline corridor. Rights of Way like these have become precious landscapes for meadows and grasslands lost elsewhere to development. In recognition of its work, Pepco has received awards from the Wildlife Habitat Council and the North American Pollinator Protection Campaign.

Will the Meadow Attract Pests & Ticks?

Pest animals in suburban areas are more attracted to garbage, pet food, and birdseed than to open meadows. **Deer ticks**, which can transmit Lyme disease to humans, are usually found in forests and forest edges, rather than open fields. **American dog ticks** are attracted by the scent of mammals, including dogs and humans, so they are most numerous along roads, paths, and trails, rather than within meadows themselves. A fact sheet on deer ticks and Lyme disease is available from the University of Maryland Cooperative Extension Service at <http://extension.umd.edu>.



Produced by Friends of Sligo Creek, www.fosc.org.

Illegal Dumping

Remember that dumping anything onto Pepco property is illegal and should be reported to Pepco.

Pepco's Environmental Stewardship Policy supports preservation and improvement of our natural resources in the communities in which it operates. Pepco seeks to mitigate the environmental impact of its operations through the management, conservation, and restoration of land and renewable natural resources. Pepco is committed to increasing environmental awareness in the communities in which it operates and to communicating its commitment to environmental stewardship.