

**client:**

Altieri Homes
Columbia, MD

project:

MacPhail Woods Bridge
Bel Air, MD

engineer:

Morris & Ritchie Associates Inc.
And Geo-Technology
Associates Inc.
Abingdon, MD

Siting a residential housing development on a hill above a flood plain can provide beautiful scenery for the residents, but it also can make transportation to and from the development tricky. Robert Hockaday, a Baltimore developer, knew he would have to build a bridge over the Maryland flood plain to provide access to the development. Where other builders had looked at the site and turned it down, Hockaday planned the 468-foot MacPhail Woods Bridge to provide both construction and residential access.

So, why consider timber? Since timber components are smaller in size and lighter in weight than their steel and concrete counterparts, smaller equipment is

required to install and service them.

Another benefit of timber construction is that it is generally less disruptive to the environment. Timber bridges utilize short spans and pile bents that do not require large excavations or other procedures disruptive to sensitive environments. The aesthetic appeal of a timber bridge which would neatly fit into the landscape really sold Hockaday.

The bridge at MacPhail Woods utilizes three types of spans: 393 linear feet of conventional stick-built construction, a 52-ft long single span bridging Bynum Run itself, and a 23-ft long span bridging a utility easement. The bridge also features cast-in-place concrete abutments on spread footers, a heavy-duty curb-and-guardrail system and asphalt paving over a waterproof membrane.



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