



Comments Regarding the Future of Lake Accotink

October 18, 2019



To: Fairfax County Park Authority & members of the Board of Supervisors

We commend the nice work done in financing the proposed Lake Accotink dredging project at much-reduced cost. The financial cost has been lowered, but the environmental cost has been raised by the current plan.

An aboveground 1.3 mile 18 to 24 inch diameter pipeline and a 5 acre dewatering area are an excessive price to pay. We offer our apologies for not having foreseen this possibility at an earlier stage in the discussions when our input would have been more timely.

The Friends of Accotink Creek were accepting of the status quo of retaining the full lake, but the plan as it now stands is not the status quo. We must modify our previous position in support of retaining the full sized Lake Accotink if a pipeline to Braddock Road must be included.

- The aesthetic value of the lake will be much diminished by this gash in the woods.
- The habitat value and carbon capture value of the trees will be sacrificed.
- The aboveground pipeline will be an eyesore and a possible graffiti magnet.

The environmental and aesthetic cost of the pipeline would be somewhat mitigated if the pipeline could go underground without sacrifice of wooded areas - beneath the Cross County Trail, or even beneath streets. However, it is difficult to imagine how the 5 acre dewatering area can be mitigated or made more appealing, since we understand placement in the cleared area beneath the power lines is considered unfeasible.

All this proposed loss of tree canopy and industrialization of both Lake Accotink Park and Wakefield Park comes adjacent to the proposed additional sacrifice of wooded areas for the Braddock Road project and concomitant realignment of Danbury Forest Drive.

What can be done?

- The neighbors can reevaluate the permanent cost of the pipeline vs. temporarily putting up with trucks.
- Would it not be possible to route the pipeline the far shorter distance to the industrial park? Of course, the industrial park owners would seek rental.
- We must reexamine the option of the smaller lake, which would provide all the recreational and most of the aesthetic value of the full lake, at a far lower financial burden, and without imposing the environmental cost of tree canopy loss.

Some of you may recall the Friends of Accotink Creek have expressed concern for the future of the last freshwater mussel population in Accotink Creek should the dam be removed. It now seems evident that the cleaner waters of the smaller lake might be able to provide a refuge for those mussels, possibly one that is superior to their current tenuous situation..

Assuming the Lake Accotink dam is retained, the Friends of Accotink Creek again ask for Inclusion of passages for fish and eels in plans for the future of the dam.

The day before the September 19th public meeting, young people gathered in Washington and around the world to ask us to provide a future in which they will not be baked in their boots. Yet trees-to-asphalt conversion projects, or in this case, trees-to-steel conversion, are an all-too-common practice. Cutting down trees as a solution to our immediate problems is not a way to provide for the future.

Friends of Accotink Creek

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