



## Friends of Accotink Creek Public Statements

### Future of Lake Accotink Public Meeting

September 19 , 2019

My name is Kris Unger, and I'm with the Friends of Accotink Creek. Over my years volunteering with FACC, I have never seen so many people come together so strongly to support the watershed. This has been an amazing watershed-based community engagement campaign, which no-one organized. I've been inspired and impressed by the people that I've met over the time of the Save Lake Accotink campaign, their passion and their interests and their skills. I appreciate your involvement!

One of my Principles of Advocacy is, "If you want to get something done, take good hostages". And what we've learned over the last few years is that Lake Accotink is a really good hostage. When people found out that Lake Accotink was threatened, thousands of you stood up and spoke out. You fought for what you loved.

But even with this solution, Lake Accotink and Accotink Creek are still hostages. Hostage to human impacts like pollution, stormwater runoff, habitat loss, sedimentation, and climate change. We appreciate the County's work to preserve, protect and restore Lake Accotink, but it's up to us as community members to back them up. We need to get involved and stay involved.

One of the main gauges of Accotink's health are the TMDL's, the "Total Maximum Daily Load" (of various pollutants). But I think an essential metric that deserves more attention is the TCEL - the Total Community Engagement Level. What saved Lake Accotink is Community Engagement, hundreds of people talking and working together, and organizing to protect what they loved.

Congratulations! The work continues! As the Friends of Accotink Creek, we work to protect the watershed through school programs, community outreach, stream cleanups, and advocacy. Land use decisions other the last 50 years have had serious impacts on the watershed, and getting involved in the land use decision-making process now is one of the best ways to influence outcomes for the next 50 years.

We appreciate and support the good work by County leaders and agencies to protect the environment, and we welcome and encourage your involvement as community members and leaders. Join us - we are stronger together!

- Kris

I am sorry to dampen the celebratory mood.

A main motivation for persons who favor retaining the full lake is its aesthetic value. Now we learn that there is a high aesthetic cost attached – a hideous eyesore in the form of an aboveground, 18 to 24 inch permanent pipeline from Lake Accotink to Wakefield Park above Braddock Road, routed between the Cross County Trail and Accotink Creek.

This will involve cutting down a swath of trees to accommodate the pipeline, at the cost of all their carbon sequestration value, as well as the habitat loss. More trees will be cut down in Wakefield Park to provide a dewatering area.

This cost of what is lost seems too high for what is being kept. We should either put up with trucks in our neighborhoods or reconsider the smaller lake. The smaller lake would preserve most of the aesthetic and all of the recreational value, without requiring the sacrifice of so many trees.

Some of you may recall I spoke on previous occasions about the dam protecting the downstream freshwater mussel population. If the dam were removed, a refuge for those mussels could be provided as an alternate solution. The smaller lake itself might provide such a refuge.

We do not need this pipeline in Lake Accotink Park.

- Philip (As best recollected several days later)



*Conversation-starting sign worn by Philip at the meeting*

## Friends of Accotink Creek

><(((°>`·,·,·~`·,·><(((°> "Find just one other person who cares." ><(((°>`·,·,·~`·,·><(((°>`·,·,·~`·,· ><(((°>