



## Comments of the Friends of Accotink Creek Regarding the Northfax West Project

July 9, 2020

Mayor and City Council members,

The Friends of Accotink Creek request a pause on irreversible Northfax West decisions pending evaluation of this portion of the North Fork of Accotink Creek and its surroundings by an independent ecologist engaged by the City.

Our pain is great in asking this, understanding the time and effort already expended by all parties and understanding as well the disappointment of possible diminished economic returns.

Yet the pain is greater when we contemplate the sacrifice of the natural patrimony embodied by this ancient waterway. Indeed, we fear the pain may well be greatest for the City when the loss is felt in the future and cannot be redeemed.

The outpouring of comments leading up to and during the June 22<sup>nd</sup> Planning Commission meeting and June 23<sup>rd</sup> City Council meeting illustrates the misgivings of citizens about the wisdom of the sacrifice of the North Fork of Accotink Creek.

The Council is contemplating the future of an ageless perennial stream, aquifer-fed and as filled with life as any to be found in the City (allegations to the contrary notwithstanding).

Please, let's not repeat the "pipe it and pave it" solutions of the past. Please make the difficult decision to preserve this remaining segment of the North Fork of Accotink Creek as a natural asset for the City.

As the first step back from the brink, the Friends of Accotink Creek again ask for a pause in Northfax West (and Farr Ave) actions pending independent ecologist and hydrologist evaluation that may inspire alternatives to better accomplish both the City's land use and environmental goals.

The comments previously submitted by the Friends of Accotink Creek on this issue are linked here for reference. [May 10, 2020](#) & [June 17, 2020](#)

The Audubon Naturalist Society will provide [comments addressing legal questions](#) that should be resolved. The Friends of Accotink Creek wish to endorse those legal concerns.



# Friends of Accotink Creek

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