

# GROUP PRIORITIES SHEET

Friends of Accotink Creek Nov. 17, 2014

Group/Host Name

Date

Please list the top three priorities for each question as suggested by your group discussion. If more than three items top the list, please list those additional top priorities, as well.

1. In what ways and how often do you use the parks, facilities and services provided by the Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA)?

How often - Multiple times weekly

In what ways - ① Nature-based recreation  
② Stewardship of natural resources  
③ Environmental education/outreach

2. What do you like most and least about the parks?

Most- ① Habitat preservation  
② Environmental education, esp. nature centers  
③ Environmental services provided by natural areas

Least- ① Impervious surfaces  
② Too much emphasis on athletics  
③ Disturbed/unbalanced ecosystems

3. What, if anything, prevents you from using the parks, facilities and programs offered by FCPA?

① Lack of time  
② Blockage of park entrances  
③ Degraded habitat, especially areas so overtaken by invasive plants movement is impeded

4. Are there any facilities, programs and services that you would like to see FCPA provide, improve, or enhance?

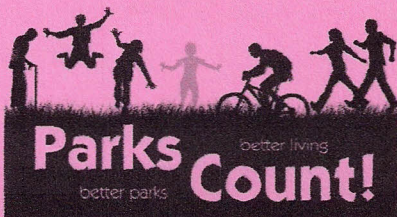
① Environmental education  
② Organized nature hikes, especially on CCT  
③ Watershed restoration initiatives, e.g. stormwater control

5. What is the most important investment FCPA should make in the park system?

① maintain, protect, and enhance natural areas and corridors  
② Treat parks as watershed preservation demonstration areas  
③ Control deer population

6. Is there anything else that we have not asked you about how you use parks that you would like to tell us?

See attached



- Upgrade of facilities  
While we are largely neutral on facilities, we ask that planning be guided by the principles of no net increase in impervious surfaces and no increase in runoff. Further, any renovations or construction that may be undertaken would offer opportunities to incorporate advanced environmental and watershed-friendly features.
- Invasives removal/prevention  
Invasive alien plant species are pervasive within our parks, diminishing both environmental and recreational value of natural areas. While the Park Authority's Invasive Management Area volunteer program addresses a few small areas, park-wide invasive prevention and control should be integrated into all maintenance and planning.
- Defend natural resources over recreation  
The demand for active recreational and sports use of parks is infinite, but our remaining natural areas are finite. Destruction of irreplaceable habitat to satisfy demands for active recreation is an unwise course. Likewise, encouraging types of recreation in natural areas that degrade those areas is also destined to be regretted.
- Stream restoration or protection projects  
Fairfax County is undertaking, at great expense to taxpayers, a series of remediation plans to restore the health of all streams in the county. As steward of so many of our streams and natural areas, the Park Authority has a key role to play in the success of this endeavor. Park Authority actions cannot be conceived in isolation from this larger goal or work at cross purposes. The master plan should incorporate elements of the county's Watershed Plans affecting parks and integrate the goal of watershed protection.
- The park as a watershed-friendly demonstration area  
County facilities in general, and parks in particular, are in the public eye and should serve as showcases for watershed-friendly practices, providing inspiring examples for property owners to follow, thus serving as a multiplier for county watershed restoration expenditures.
- Pavement  
Pavement is the primary cause of impairment of stream health in our county, by causing streambed erosion through excessive runoff. The Park Authority could set the example of reversing this trend by avoidance of creation of impervious surfaces, by replanting, by depaving, by replacing conventional pavement with pervious pavement, and by mitigation of new construction.
- The balance needed between preservation vs. increased demands for park revenue  
Ever growing requirements for parks to produce revenue are inconsistent with the concept of parks as a public benefit. Pursuing revenue producing activities will render our public parks indistinguishable from shopping centers or private amusement parks.
- Cost avoidance value of preserving natural areas  
Rather than asking our parks to produce revenue, let us consider the cost avoidance value to our community of maintaining and enhancing natural areas for flood control and water quality.