



2/4/15

Thank you for this information, Mr. Wadsworth. We are glad to hear that this application has been deferred.

Kris Unger, Primary Conservator, [Friends of Accotink Creek](#)

Feb 4, 2015,

Good afternoon:

My name is Marcus Wadsworth and I am the land use aide to Lee District Supervisor Jeff McKay. Supervisor McKay received your email and asked that I contact you. The application to which you are referring is indefinitely deferred. The Lee District Land Use Committee voted 20-7 on December 1, 2014 to oppose the project. Should a redevelopment proposal for this parcel of land go through the process again, every aspect of the project will be reexamined — including the possible construction of the “Long Branch Trail.” Please don’t hesitate to contact me if you have any additional questions. Thank you and have a nice day.

Marcus Wadsworth
Staff Assistant
Office of Supervisor Jeffrey C. McKay
Fairfax County Board of Supervisors



2/4/15

TO: Lee District Supervisor
Chairman, Board of Supervisors
Lee District Park Authority Board Member
At Large Park Authority Board Member

The [Friends of Accotink Creek](#) question the plans for Long Branch Trail along the length of the Long Branch tributary of Accotink Creek from Cinder Bed Road to the Springfield Metro.

We became aware of these plans in this document: <http://dsnet.fairfaxcounty.gov/ldsnet/ldsdfw/4470580.PDF> , which says:

"The Applicant shall construct a public 10-foot wide Type 1 Asphalt Trail within the Long Branch Floodplain/RPA (the “Long Branch Trail”)" (p. 9, Appendix 1) "... which will provide an essential pedestrian link for a future trail connection to the Franconia-Springfield Metro Station." (p.15)

This is an area where no trail exists, entirely within the floodplain, part of which harbors a rare Magnolia bog habitat. The Friends of Accotink Creek question the need for such a trail and the wisdom of applying resources to its construction that could better be used to enhance the health of our streams and watersheds.

- While this trail is part of the Comprehensive Plan, plans can change when circumstances warrant.
- While trails in floodplains are permitted by the Chesapeake Bay Act, not every permitted act need be carried out.
- Floodplains are frequently inundated and are by definition inherently unsuitable for any development.
- Several washouts of recently laid asphalt along the CCT demonstrate the challenge of maintaining trails in floodplains.
- Trails in parks can hardly be justified as safe and efficient parts of the transportation infrastructure when they are unlit at night and unplowed after snow.
- We already have 9000+ miles of streets where pedestrian and bicycle use can and should be developed.
- The demand for active recreational use of parks is infinite, but our remaining natural areas are finite. Destruction of irreplaceable habitat to demands for active recreation is an unwise course.

There is also the question of best use of resources to pave in stream valleys when other parts of county government are expending many millions of tax dollars to improve the health of streams and watersheds impaired by the effects of excessive runoff from pavement.

We ask that the plans for the Long Branch Trail be reconsidered and that future paving in natural areas be avoided unless absolutely necessary and mitigation for the added pavement is provided.

Sincerely yours,



Kris Unger, Primary Conservator, [Friends of Accotink Creek](http://www.accotink.org)