



Fairfax County Board of Supervisors
12000 Government Center Parkway, Suite 530
Fairfax, Virginia 22025

Re: Fall Cankerworm Spraying

February 25, 2017

Dear Chairman Sharon Bulova and Board Members:

The Friends of Accotink Creek understand that on February 28 the board will be asked to approve a cankerworm spraying program in 2017. In support of the position expressed by the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations, we would like to express continued opposition to cankerworm spraying as a means of population control and pest removal.

The Fall Cankerworm is a native moth caterpillar that has population increases every few years as part of its natural population dynamics; however, there are natural forces that keep these irruptions in check, including predatory insects and birds for which the Fall Cankerworm is an important food source.

Furthermore, it is our understanding that the Urban Forest Management Division, Forest Pest Management program, is not proposing any spraying for fall cankerworm this year. Their monitoring of cankerworm populations indicated that population levels of cankerworms would not reach the point of defoliation that would impact the survivability of trees. However, the FY2018 budget document for Fund 40080 – Integrated Pest Management states “the FY 2018 budget provides capacity to treat 500 acres of ground treatment and up to 5,000 acres of aerial treatment, should insect surveys conducted between August and January indicate the need”.

The Friends of Accotink Creek support the position of the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations that states spraying for Fall Cankerworms be terminated. We also support the Federation’s recommendation that a portion of the funds approved by the Board of Supervisors for the Fall Cankerworm insecticide spraying program be reallocated to citizen education and community outreach along with increased funding for the County’s Tree Action Plan and/or invasive plant removal to increase native species diversity and otherwise improve forest health in Fairfax County.

Sincerely,

Friends of Accotink Creek : : www.accotink.org : :

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