



November 24, 2017

The Friends of Accotink Creek wish to submit comments on drone operation in Fairfax County Parks.

The [Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act](#) and the [Migratory Bird Treaty Act](#) provide federal penalties for activities that disturb these protected species. Almost inevitably, drone operation in parks will cause such disturbances and needs to be carefully constrained.

Drone use should be limited to already developed areas and athletic fields sufficiently separated from natural habitat to avoid bird disturbance. The delineation of such areas must be such that their limits are clear to both staff and the public.

In particular:

- Drones over or near water should not be allowed because birds often fly over water.
- Drones should also not be allowed near the edges of woods, another common place to find birds.

Regardless of any specific legal protections, all classes of wildlife will suffer stress from the intrusion of these noisy, menacing, raptor-like machines.

Nor will any park visitors enjoy the disturbance of these buzzing mechanical hornets swooping and snooping overhead.

It may, in fact, be the case that any expansion of drone use while maintaining natural resource stewardship and the enjoyment of other park users is not practical.

Sincerely,

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"Dominion over nature is a gift which has been given us yoked to the trust for its preservation."