



## Lake Accotink Dewatering Site Comments

August 18, 2021:

The Current Island with rotation of truck traffic along different routes is not a good option, but may be the least bad. Yes, the nuisance impact would fall on park users and neighbors, but they are also the most direct beneficiaries of dredging to maintain the full lake.

When the decision was made to preserve the full size of Lake Accotink, a 1.5 mile pipeline in the woods and a further 5-acre loss of wooded habitat for a dewatering site were not part of the bargain citizens understood. The Current Island site avoids this sacrifice.

With the dam remaining in place, fish/eel passage solutions to restore natural migration patterns need to become a part of the future life of the dam, Lake Accotink, and Accotink Creek.

Repair of the Upper Settling Basin, installed as part of the 1980's dredge, should be integrated into the project regardless of the dewatering site chosen. Deterioration of the Basin is currently returning that 1980's sediment directly to the lake. Its complete failure (not unlikely given the current condition) has catastrophic potential to return immense amounts of sediment to the lake, devastate the historic railroad bed, and even flood nearby homes.

We urge that planning begin now for a longer term future – when conditions of reduced erosion may permit, a smaller, deeper, cleaner, and even cuter Lake Accotink, which would provide all the recreational and most of the aesthetic value of the full lake, at a far lower ongoing financial burden. This new dam could be designed to be, not merely utilitarian, but an aesthetic gem, enhancing visitors' experience of the park, possibly something inspired by elements of:

- [Carrol Creek Park in Frederick, Maryland,](#)
- [Creek Walk in San Luis Obispo, California,](#)
- [Historic Fourth Ward Park in Atlanta, Georgia, and](#)
- [Eisenhower Avenue Park in Alexandria, Virginia.](#)

Further, we citizens of Fairfax County must focus on eliminating the sediment at its source, which is excessive stormwater runoff from our roads, roofs, and parking areas.

Again, the Friends of Accotink Creek endorse the Current Island dewatering site option as likely to present the least negative environmental impact. We do urge that the island dewatering facility be designed with an eye to maintaining the aesthetic qualities that make Lake Accotink so appealing.



### Friends of Accotink Creek

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