



Our meeting notes serve as bulletins of our activities, interests, and discussions, supplemented by your submissions.

**Friends of Accotink Creek Town Meeting – July 19, 2022**

Next Meeting: August 16, 2022 (Third Tuesday of each month via on-line meeting: Login info will be posted with the meeting notice in the [Friends of Accotink calendar.](#))

**SUPPORT/DONATE**  
*It's easy & free!*

**Present:** Sandy Collins, Avril Garland, Philip Latasa, Dave Lincoln, Beverly Rivera, Kim Schauer, all via on-line meeting, due to COVID 19 closures and precautions.

**Opportunities to represent FACC:**

**CareFirst/CohnReznick Workday, June 30, 2022:** On June 30<sup>th</sup>, about 35 volunteers from two corporate groups, CareFirst and CohnReznick volunteered removing invasives from the Lands and Waters outdoor classrooms at Daniels Run Elementary School.



**Latino Conservation Week, July 16 & 24:** Latino Conservation Week has three events in our watershed, the July 16<sup>th</sup> reopening of Hidden Oaks Nature Center after renovations and two invasives removal events in Eakin Park July 16<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. Philip attended the first invasives event and will attend the second.

**60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Lake Accotink Park, August 27, 2022:** The July 14<sup>th</sup> FLAP meeting included discussion of arrangements for the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event. Close to 20 displays and exhibits are already arranged, pretty much all of them Park Authority and other County agencies. FLAP is

seeking quite a number of volunteers to assist with everything from parking to cleanup. The Park Authority may have an exhibit connected with Beverley's invasives site at the marina. Plans are only in the concept phase. Philip didn't see a role for FACC as a whole, but anyone is welcome to come up with a role. We agreed we should support this activity as volunteers.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED  
TO SUPPORT  
60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Lake  
Accotink Park Celebration**

**WHEN:** 27 August 2022  
**VOLUNTEERS:** Many varied positions 8am-5pm (shifts)  
**WHERE:** Lake Accotink Park  
**Register:** [https://volunteer.fairfaxcounty.gov/custom/1380/#opp\\_details/187946](https://volunteer.fairfaxcounty.gov/custom/1380/#opp_details/187946)

**ALL VOLUNTEERS RECEIVE LIMITED EDITION 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary T-Shirt**

Stay Connected Text FLAP to #22828  
**Tax Deductible Donations:** [contact@flapaccotink.org](mailto:contact@flapaccotink.org)

[facebook.com/friendsoflakeaccotinkpark/](https://www.facebook.com/friendsoflakeaccotinkpark/)  
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[www.flapaccotink.org](http://www.flapaccotink.org)

[Volunteer for the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Lake Accotink Park](#)

**DWR Fish Survey, August 3:** Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources will be doing an electrofishing survey of Accotink Creek fish species the first week of August in Wakefield Park. Everyone is welcome to help or just watch or document the activity on video.

**FACC Subjects of Interest Discussion:**

**Accotink Gorge:** In previous discussion of a fall work date, Avril pointed out it should be a Teachers' Work Day to try for more student participation. Suitable fall dates on student days off:

- Wed Oct 5th (Yom Kippur)
- Mon Oct 10th (teacher workday),
- Mon Oct 24th (Divali),
- Mon Oct 31st (teacher workday),
- Tues Nov 8th (Election Day),
- Fri Nov 11th Veterans Day

The choice is to be determined when Avril gathers more information.

**Daventry Stream Restoration site invasives:** On June 29<sup>th</sup>, Stormwater Planning Division and a crew from Operation Stream Shield worked to remove invasive from a recent stream restoration adjoining the Daventry HOA neighborhood in Springfield. This is where Dave lives and he had requested attention to the situation. As always, invasives are just daunting and much more could be done

**Frontier Drive Extension:** Philip reported on a public meeting on the proposed Frontier Drive extension on July 12<sup>th</sup> to review the environmental assessment. The general plan is little changed, only some details have been refined. Tree loss is estimated up to 22 acres with no plan for mitigation. The somewhat good news is that there is no funding yet for construction. Twenty something million has been spent on planning and close to another \$200 million is needed. The presenters assured attendees the County will keep submitting for grant funding. Comments are due by July 29<sup>th</sup>. Philip will draft something and pass it around for approval.

**Spicewood Court Properties:** Philip reported on task he took on last meeting, looking into asking for the return of our Spicewood donation to Northern Virginia Conservation Trust, since they did not win the auction. Philip looked at waiting until the sale was finalized, since there was some small chance the buyer would back out and the Conservation Trust would still get the properties. Now we've learned it will be months before the sale is final. The Board discussed whether to wait or go ahead and ask now. Philip will look further into the Trust's plans.

**Parking Reimagined:** Philip described Parking Reimagined, a proposed zoning ordinance amendment that would reduce minimum parking requirements for new developments with the goals of reducing vehicle dependency and increasing affordable housing. It's a little off our mission, but others have urged us to say something, particularly about linking parking reductions to green space increases. The Planning Commission will consider this July 28<sup>th</sup>. Philip will draft something and send it around for approval.

**International Coastal Cleanup:** The proposed schedule went out with the meeting reminder. There being no objections to the dates, Philip will post the schedule online. The new stormwater utility credit program in Fairfax City will be sending us volunteers who wish to perform volunteer services in lieu of increased taxes. We shall see how many there may be. With the help of the City, we may also add a cleanup site along the stretch between Main Street and Meadow Bridge Lane, where several private lots in a commercially zoned area are in real need of cleanup.

**Fort Belvoir North Area:** The [Environmental Assessment](#) for a proposed distribution center on the Fort Belvoir North Base has been released. Searching the document for the word "pogonia" shows quite a contrast to the casual approach taken on the Cinder Bed Road Bikeway (just 1.5 miles to the east). The survey here was much more detailed. Small Whorled Pogonia was found here some years ago, but not this time. About 45 acres of forest loss are proposed. Comments close July 29<sup>th</sup>: Philip will draft something and pass it around for approval.

**Thaiss Park Renovation Plan:** [Renovations for Thaiss Park](#) were presented in the Fairfax City Council meeting July 12th. Philip reported it is mostly a rearranging of the parking areas and ballfields without direct environmental impact. It is encouraging that the plans include some pervious pavement, a bioretention garden, and converting a small bit of pavement to woods. Ironically, this patch is adjacent to the planned Pickett Road Connector Trail which will convert an even greater amount of woods to pavement. Our comments will be attached to the Bulletin.

**Americana Drive Cleanup:** The Rotary Club of Annandale contacted us to speak at their monthly meeting on July 6th. I pitched the Americana Drive cleanups in Annandale as a possible point of collaboration and there was interest. Philip has posted a 11/11 cleanup for Veterans' Day on the FACC calendar and the Facebook front page.

**Accotink Gravity Sewer:** Only by stumbling upon a [media report](#) did we learn of the plans for the Accotink Gravity Sewer project, which would expand the capacity of an existing sewer line running from Nottoway Park along Nutley Street and into the woods around Avril's invasives site at Rt. 50 and Nutley.

The County's presentation is discouraging in that it does not mention parks or forest at all, instead merely referring to "undeveloped" areas and including a slide that suggests total destruction in such areas.

Vivian Morgan Mendez of Friends of Nottoway has aided in alerting the Park Authority, who had apparently been kept in the dark.

On the brighter side, the trail work that threatened a vernal pool in Avril's invasives site is indefinitely postponed. A trail with more pressing maintenance needs was identified by the Park Authority.



**Quiet Clean NOVA:** Avril noted the foundation is non-profit as of September. They are in need of a webmaster.

**Donations:** Philip reported that FACC received donations of:

- \$40 from Katherine Bednarek, a resident concerned about the Cinder Bed Road Bikeway,
- \$150 on behalf of the City of Fairfax Environmental Sustainability Committee, which has given us similar donations for the past few years, and a
- \$15.19 donation from the AmazonSmile Foundation as a result of activity between January 1 and March 31, 2022.

Due to the Pandemic and apparently other concerns, Volunteer Fairfax is waiving membership fees indefinitely, so Philip renewed FACC's membership free of charge.

**Whither FACC:**

**Website Modification:** [WordPress Alternative](#). We are still in need of a webmaster to continue work upgrading our web site.

**Washington Post Reporter:** Philip and Gary will be meeting a reporter from the POST who is inquiring about the Accotink TMDL and associated activities.