



Fort Belvoir North Area Distribution Center
- Early Input of the Friends of Accotink Creek

May 3, 2022

These comments include the larger issues of the [Fort Belvoir North Area Final Area Development Plan \(ncpc.gov\)](#)

Who was invited to the April 19th public meeting or how was it announced? We were unaware.

We request site visits by concerned stakeholders be arranged.

Go for the Gold – LEED Gold. The [National Geospatial Agency](#) did it, so can all other buildings on Fort Belvoir North Area.

Neither our country nor the world can meet climate goals by cutting down more forests and hoping the climate will not notice. Forward-thinking and difficult choices must be made and we all must make them.

“To keep the nation secure, we must tackle the existential threat of climate change. The unprecedented scale of wildfires, floods, droughts, typhoons, and other extreme weather events of recent months and years have damaged our installations and bases, constrained force readiness and operations, and contributed to instability around the world.” - Lloyd J. Austin III, Secretary of Defense, [Department of Defense Climate Risk Analysis](#), Report Submitted to National Security Council, October 2021.

It is not facetious to suggest that we preserve the tree canopy and instead use the Fort Belvoir golf course for building or for reforestation.

2-to-1 tree replanting somewhere offsite? The likelihood of anyone offering their parking lot or playing field for this purpose seems vanishingly dim. Further, only mature trees will be counted (typically those above 8” diameter in the survey). Figuring in the expected survival rate of any replacement saplings will inevitably yield a lower tree population than what was sacrificed.

Digging up the earlier remediation tree plantings already? Really? Was there no planning involved in the selection of their locations? Will re-remediation plantings now be proposed that are truly protected?

Fort Belvoir North Area is not too far from Metro for improved [Complete Street](#) enhancements to provide climate reduction pedestrian and bicycle travel options to commuting personnel, such as:

- Possibly add bike lanes and shared use path along Backlick Road in addition to the existing sidewalk
- Possibly extend Backlick Road sidewalk south from Barta Road to connect with existing sidewalk
- Possibly a connection to the Fairfax County Parkway Trail via Constantine Avenue or Beverley Park Drive
- Possibly a pedestrian bridge across I-95 connecting to Loisdale Road bicycle facilities

Possibilities for environmental remediation:

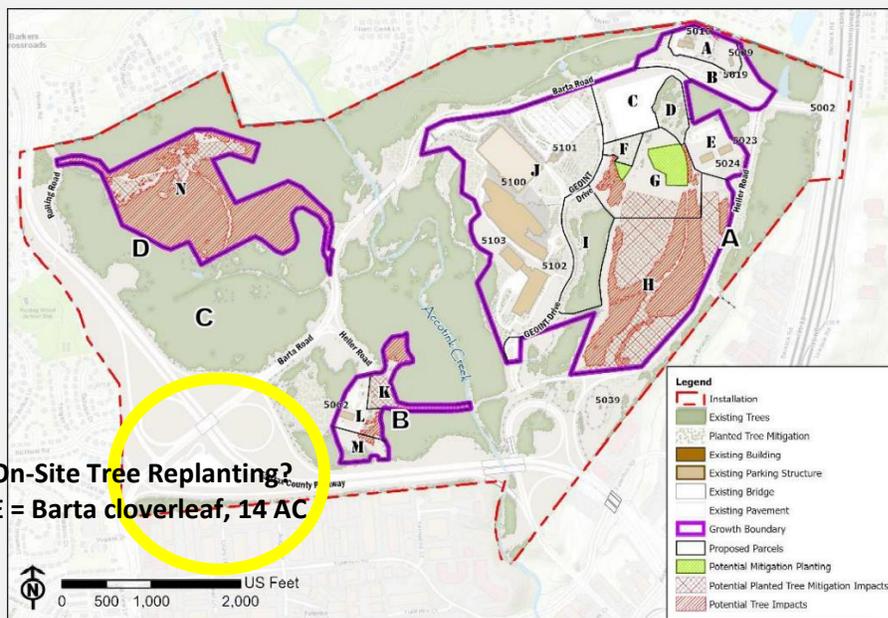
Stream remediation projects could focus on Field Lark Branch on the eastern boundary of Fort Belvoir North Area) and the small unnamed tributaries on Fort Belvoir North Area itself, in collaboration with Fairfax County Stormwater Planning Division

The [Accotink Gorge](#) Chinese wisteria removal project would benefit from the support of Fort Belvoir and its naturalist staff. The Accotink Gorge is immediately south of Fort Belvoir North Area and the Chinese wisteria infestation extends upstream along Accotink Creek onto the base.

Acquire land nearby for parks or conservation easements, possibly immediately to the north or south along Accotink Creek, perhaps even completing a protected park corridor from North Area to Main Base along the creek.

Replant the Fairfax County Parkway. The Barta Road cloverleaf alone would provide about 14 acres never replanted after the Parkway extension across Fort Belvoir North Area in 2010. This area is now partly colonized by exotic invasives, a sad successor to the mature forests that were lost.

Final Area Development Plan - Tree Removal and Mitigation



Potential Tree Removal*

A= 45 acres

B= 7 acres

C= 0 Acres

D=26 acres

Total= 78 acres

On-Site Tree Re-Planting

A= 3.85 AC

B= 0 AC

C= 0 AC

D= 0 AC

Total= 3.85 Acres

**Totals are approximate and will be refined during individual project review.*

Solarize everything that does not move.

Final Area Development Plan - Renewable Energy

- Project costs anticipate LEED ^{GOLD!} Silver ratings and Low Impact Development (LID) techniques.
- New facilities are intended to support on-site renewable energy production and will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- Solar arrays considered for:
 - Parking structure rooftops
 - Surface lots
 - Covered walkways
 - New facility rooftops will be evaluated for potential during the LEED design process and against mission and security requirements



Parking Structure Photovoltaic Shade Structures



Pedestrian Photovoltaic Shade Structures

Friends of Accotink Creek

><(((°>`.,,.,~`.,,.,>(((°> "Find just one other person who cares." ><(((°>`.,,.,~`.,,.,>(((°>`.,,.,~`.,,., ><(((°>