



**Comments of the Friends of Accotink Creek
regarding the Pickett Road Connector Trail**

To: Mayor & City Council, City of Fairfax

January 9, 2022

- We thank the City for incorporating [Eco-Counter](#), a device that will quantifiably gauge the level of usage.
- We thank the City for incorporating pervious pavement in the design, lessening the impact on stormwater runoff.
- We thank the City for incorporating boardwalk into the design, lessening the impact on stormwater runoff and on small wildlife.

Still, we are writing once again to ask the City to forego the proposed floodplain route of Pickett Road Connector Trail.

The Pickett Road Connector Trail should become a "[Neighborway](#)". Such connections achieve the goal of safe and convenient non-motorized transportation without further sacrifice of our fragmented remaining inventory of natural habitats. This [VDOT publication](#) illustrates some of the innovative methods available for safe streets.

To be honest, the spur connection to Foxcroft via Pickett Road is ironic. Why not then route the entire trail along Pickett Road, where there is sufficient room for a shared use trail at far lower cost in both dollars and natural habitat? The City of Fairfax Bicycle Plan, Bike Fairfax City , indicates an on-street route already in the future of Pickett Road just yards away from the proposed Connector route. Pickett Road offers a route that will be high and dry out of the floodplains along Accotink Creek and Hatmark Branch.

All such routings of trails through our dwindling and irreplaceable natural heritage areas, including the George Snyder Trail, should also yield to "[Neighborways](#)" .

At the recent Glasgow Climate Change Conference world leaders issued the stirring declaration "We therefore commit to working collectively to halt and reverse forest loss". The world cannot make good on that pledge if we here cannot. Any net loss of carbon-sink trees is no longer justifiable. Whenever it is in our power, the City must adopt a course of prevention of deforestation large and small.

The Friends of Accotink Creek ask the City to forego the sacrifice of forest and floodplain and reroute the Pickett Road Connector Trail into a "[Neighborway](#)".

“What we are doing to the forests of the world is but a mirror reflection of what we are doing to ourselves and to one another.”

— Chris Maser

Friends of Accotink Creek

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