



## Regarding the Thaiss Park Renovation Concept Plan

City Council Work Session, July 12, 2022

### Comments of the Friends of Accotink Creek

July 11, 2022

Mayor & City Council members,

The renovation changes proposed in the [staff presentation](#) seem entirely positive and are a laudable use of American Rescue Plan Act funds.

We applaud the improvements to pedestrian and bicycle access to Pickett Road. The current informal trail worn in the grass certainly needs to be improved upon.

We applaud the addition of stormwater management in the form of pervious pavement and bioretention gardens. We hope the capacity of these features will be adequate to compensate for all impervious surfaces. Stormwater measures should be incorporated to address erosion of the slope between Thaiss Park and the New School/Enclave area.

We applaud the apparent generous use of rooftop solar panels in the presentation illustrations. Climate change is happening now – the time for promises and half measures is over – let’s solarize everything.

We applaud the reduction of light spill. Dark sky guidelines and insect friendly wavelengths should be employed for lighting to help preserve the joy of stargazing and firefly gazing for future generations.

The presentation does not specify whether net tree cover and green space will be increased or decreased. As always, we advocate for no net loss of tree cover and are much encouraged by the planned revegetation of a portion of the parking area in the Accotink Creek RPA. More asphalt-to-trees conversions of this type are needed to counter the loss of tree canopy to development of all types.

On the other hand, we cannot overlook the irony of converting some of the parking to an RPA restoration area while at the same time the adjacent [Pickett Road Connector Trail](#) will convert wooded RPA to pavement. It is not too late to turn back.

Sincerely,  
[#SaveFairfaxTrees](#)

## Friends of Accotink Creek

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