



Supporting HB 1346, Tree Conservation

February 3, 2022

Friends of Accotink Creek SUPPORTS Delegate Bulova's HB1346 regarding the tree canopy. Due to increased development, many areas in Virginia are losing trees to impervious surfaces. More impervious surfaces means more stormwater runoff. One inch of rainfall on an acre of parking produces 27,000 gallons of stormwater. (Source: Penn State Extension). Stormwater runoff is the number one cause of stream erosion in urban and suburban areas. Restoring eroded streams is costly for Virginia taxpayers: The Town of Vienna's 2nd phase of the Bear Branch stream-restoration project along 2,300 feet of Bear Branch comes to \$2.52 million. Fairfax County will pay one half, the state of Virginia the other. That amounts to \$1,096 per foot. And that's just one project! Stormwater runoff also silts up lakes. Dredging lakes, to retain their value as recreational amenities, is extremely costly. Lake Accotink in Fairfax County has a sediment load of some 500 cubic yards and requires a dredging project estimated at \$60 million. The work will begin in 2023. If stormwater is not reduced, the lake will need future dredgings. Stormwater runoff also pollutes our waterways. As it pounds down on paved surfaces, stormwater picks up trash, oil and grease, pet waste, pesticides, lawn fertilizer, road salt, and metals, and carries them into streams. An important function of trees is to absorb stormwater falling on impervious surfaces. A single mature, deciduous tree intercepts from 500 to 700 gallons of water from rainfall each year. Lawns absorb very little. Delegates of the CC&T Committee, we urge you not to cave to the demands of special interest groups, and allow communities in Virginia burdened with the costs of excessive stormwater to manage their own solutions. Please support HB 1346/ SB537.

Friends of Accotink Creek

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