



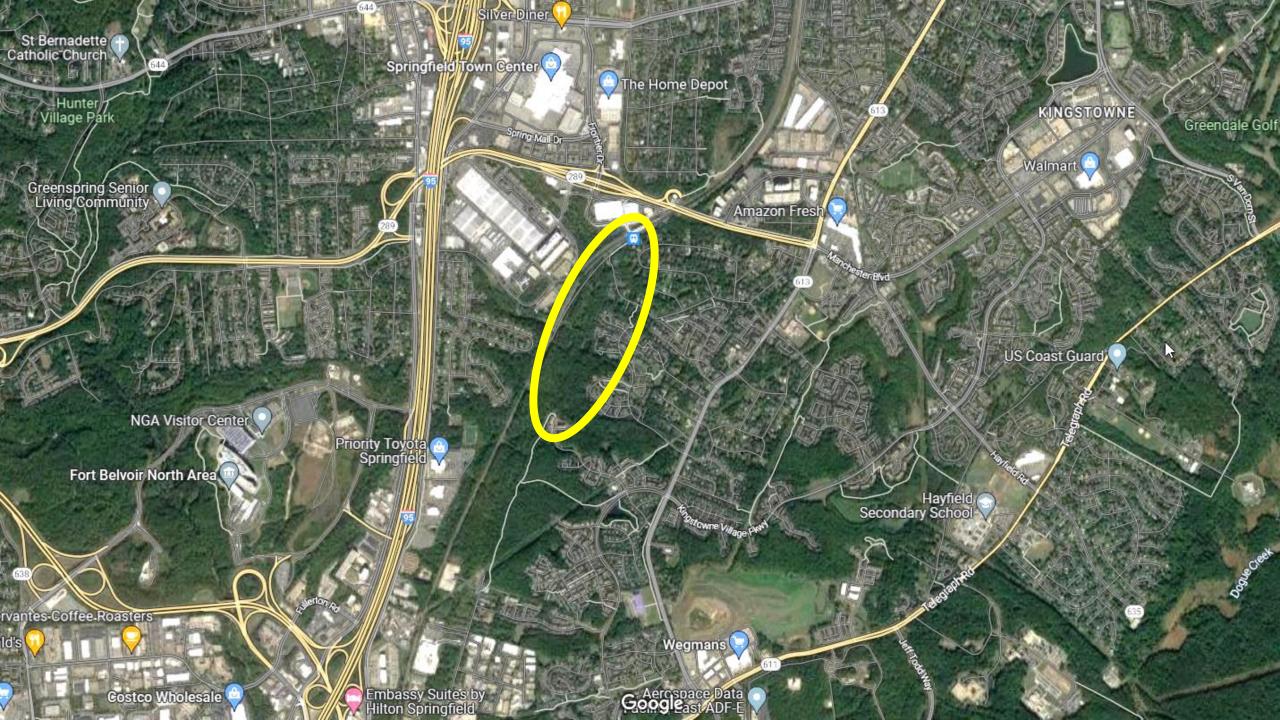


## Cinder Bed Road Bikeway

on Amberleigh HOA property

What, why, where, when?

April 19, 2023

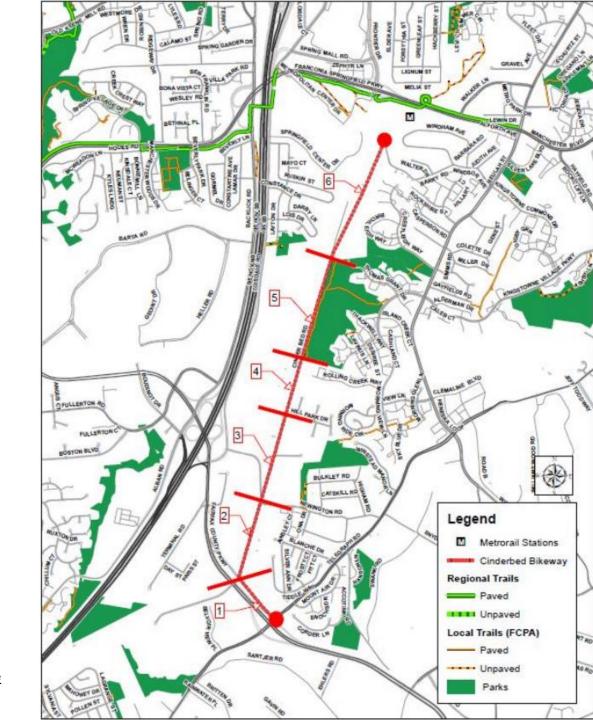


## Planned: Cinder Bed Road Bikeway

Purpose: Provide a continuous shared use path between Fairfax County Parkway near Telegraph Road to the Franconia-Springfield Metro Station entrance at Barry Road. (3 miles)

#### 2106 Final Report:

https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/transportation/sites/transportation/files/assets/documents/pdf/transportation%20projects,%20studies%20and%20plans/cinder%20bed%20road/cinder-bed-road-bikeway\_final-report.pdf



## Planned: Cinder Bed Road Bikeway

This part of the project combines the final three phases of the plan, focused on Segments 3, 4, 5, and 6 (2 miles).

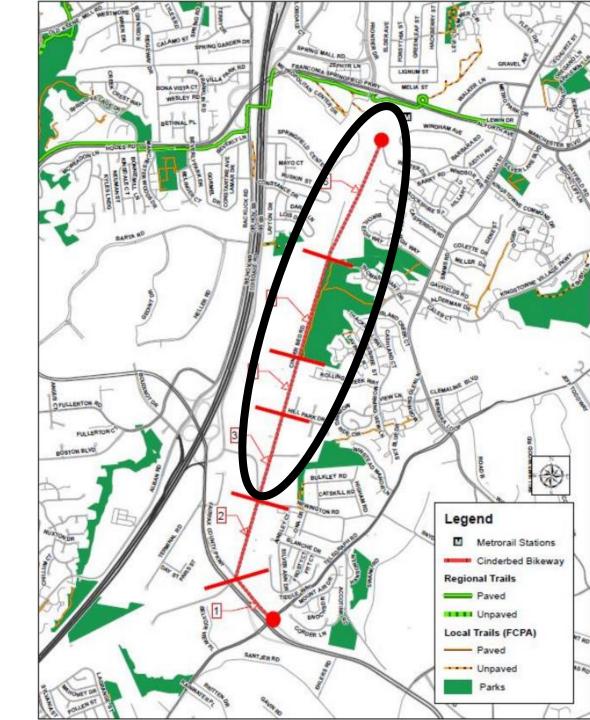
The entire length is planned to be paved (w/bridges), 10' wide, fully lit, ADA compliant.

Initial cost estimate: \$5MM

2021 cost estimate: \$14.75MM

#### **2021 County Presentation:**

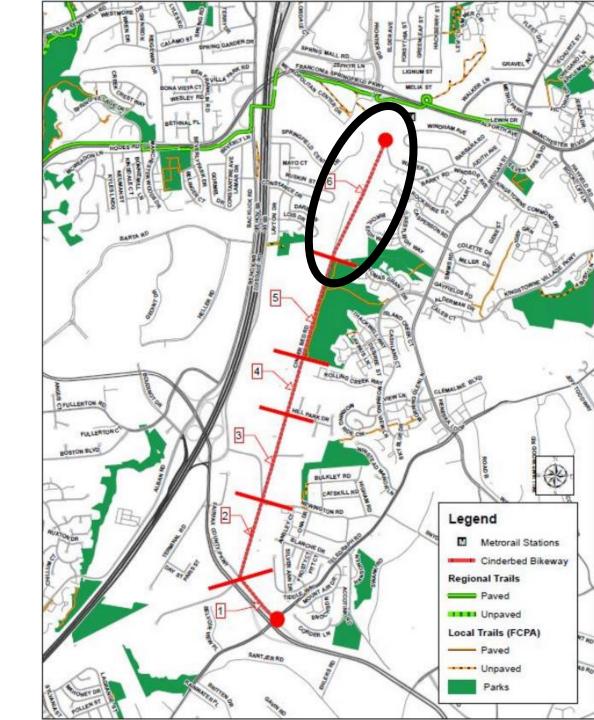
https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/transportation/sites/transportation/files/assets/documents/pdf/transportation%20projects,%20studies%20and%20plans/cinder%20bed%20road/cinder bed bikeway presentation-5-10-21.pdf



## Planned: Cinder Bed Road Bikeway

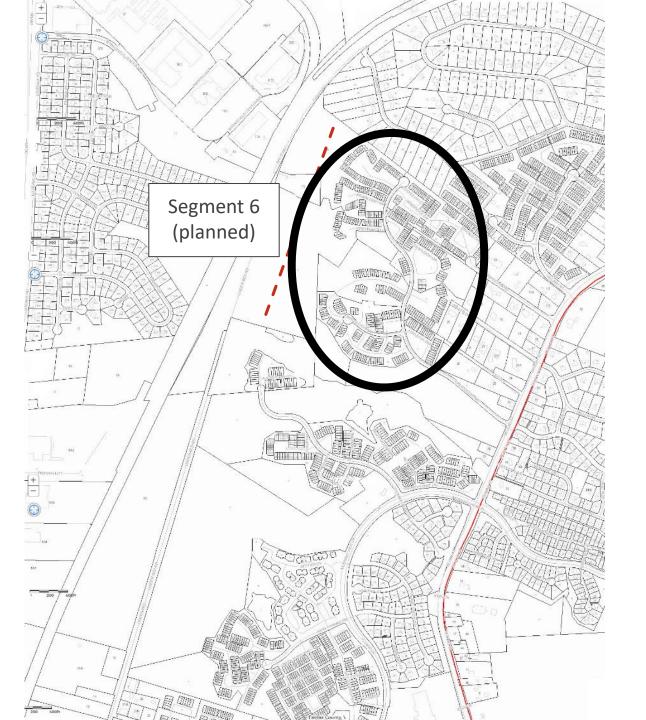
#### "Segment 6" is planned for Amberleigh HOA woods property

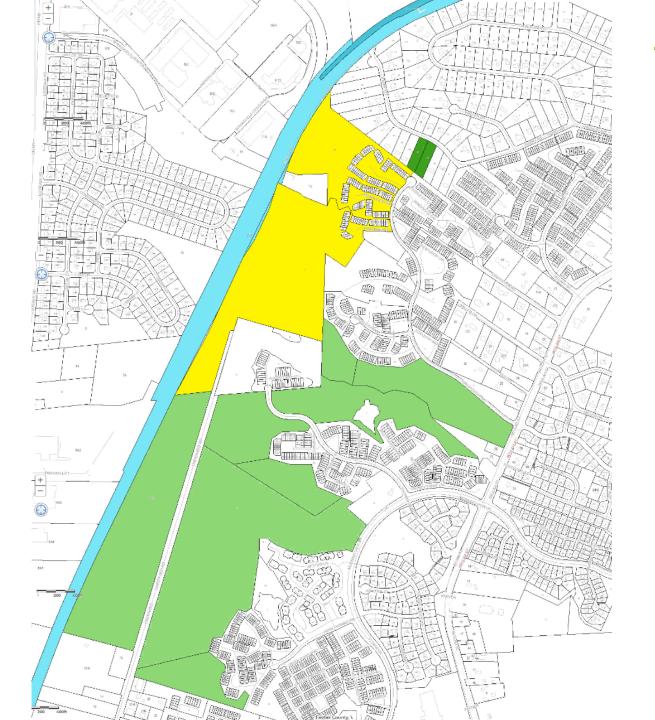
- Segment 6 would not be directly connected to Amberleigh HOA
- 7/10 of a mile not yet built
- Two major bridges to cross Long Branch, a tributary of Accotink Creek, and its wetlands.

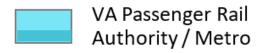






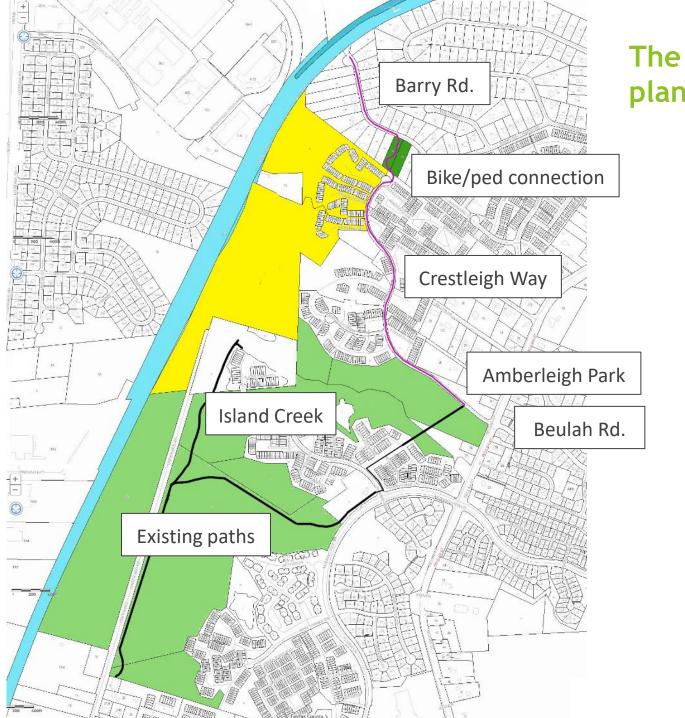












VA Passenger Rail Authority / Metro

Amberleigh HOA (parcels)

FCPA / BOS

Current paved trail

Current connection



VA Passenger Rail Authority / Metro

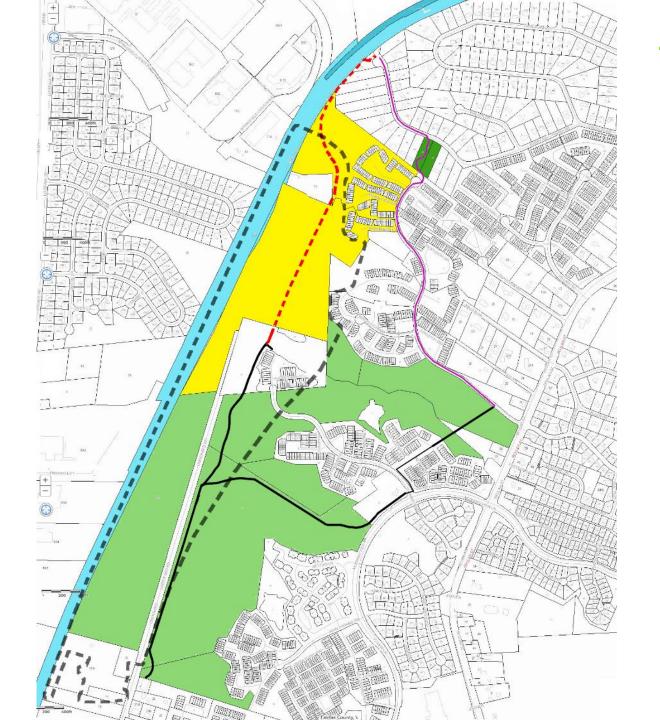
Amberleigh HOA (parcels)

FCPA / BOS

Current paved trail

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Segment 6 (Cinder Bed)







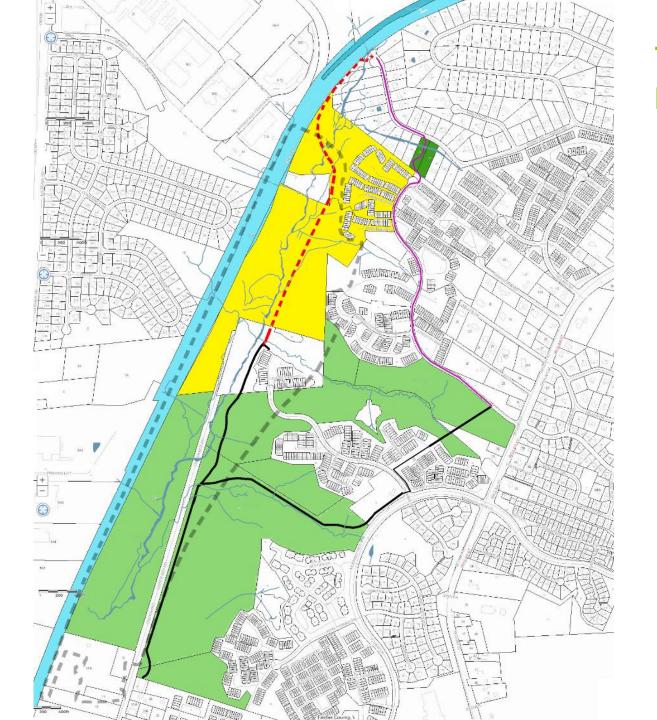


Current paved trail

Current connection

--- Segment 6 (Cinder Bed)

Outline of Newington
Conservation Site









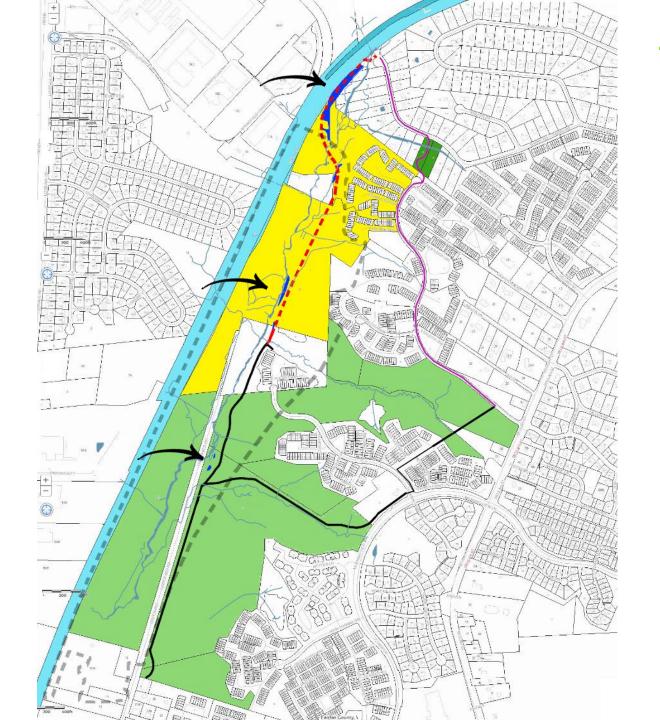
Current paved trail

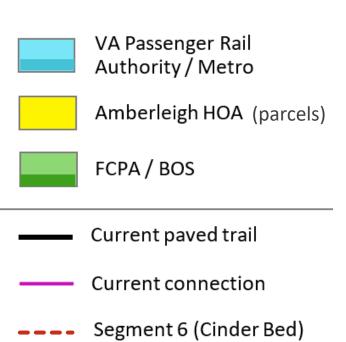
Current connection

--- Segment 6 (Cinder Bed)

Outline of Newington Conservation Site

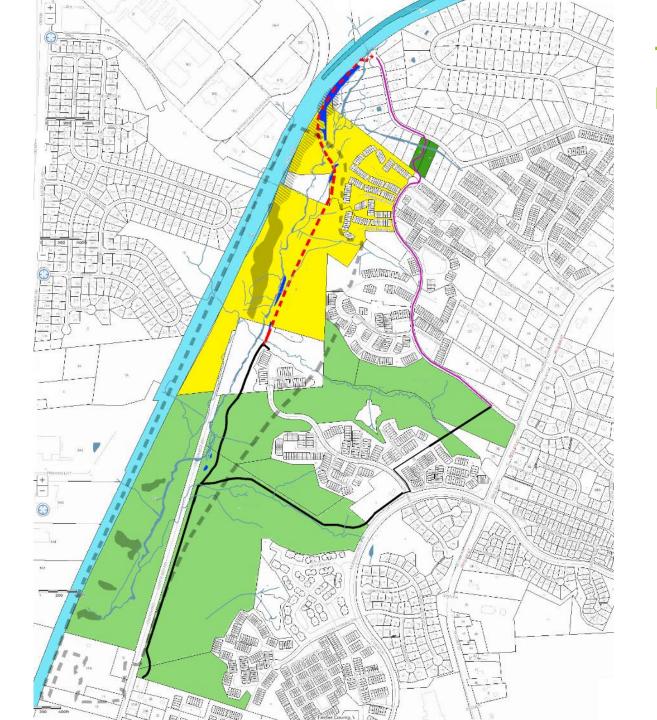
And the streams...





Outline of Newington Conservation Site

And the streams, and the wetlands around them.





VA Passenger Rail Authority / Metro



Amberleigh HOA (parcels)



FCPA / BOS



Current paved trail



Current connection



Segment 6 (Cinder Bed)



Outline of Newington **Conservation Site** 



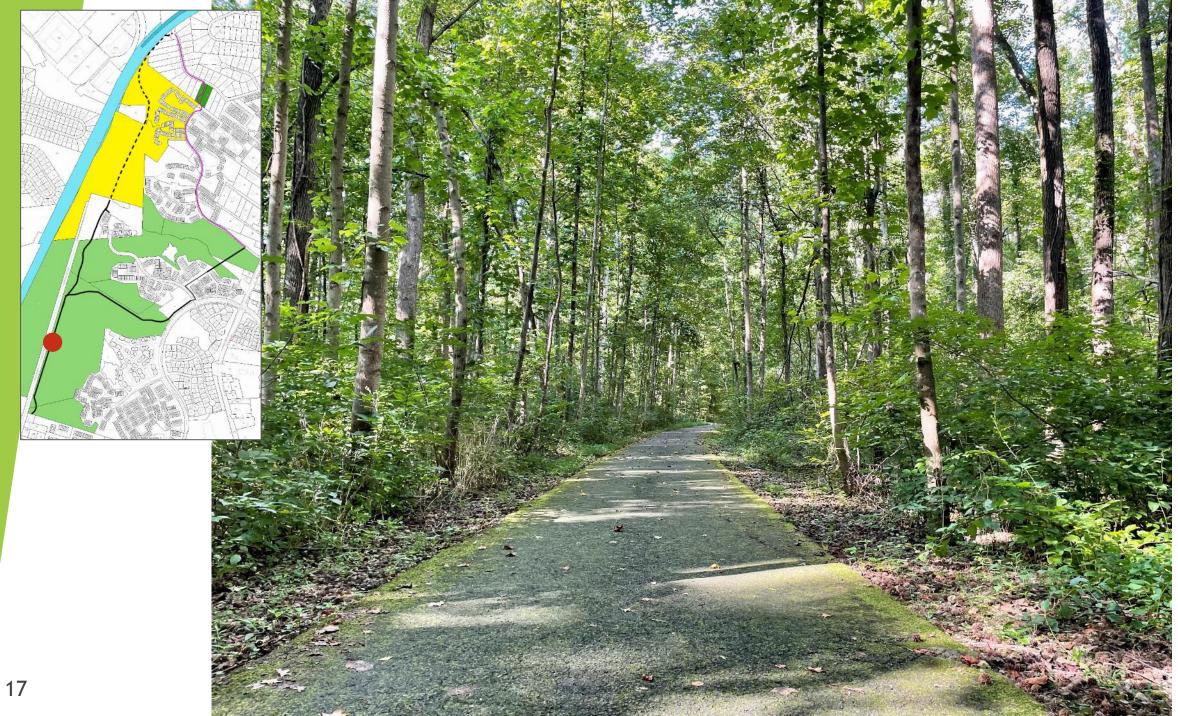
Acidic seepage swamps (G3; mapped by DCR)



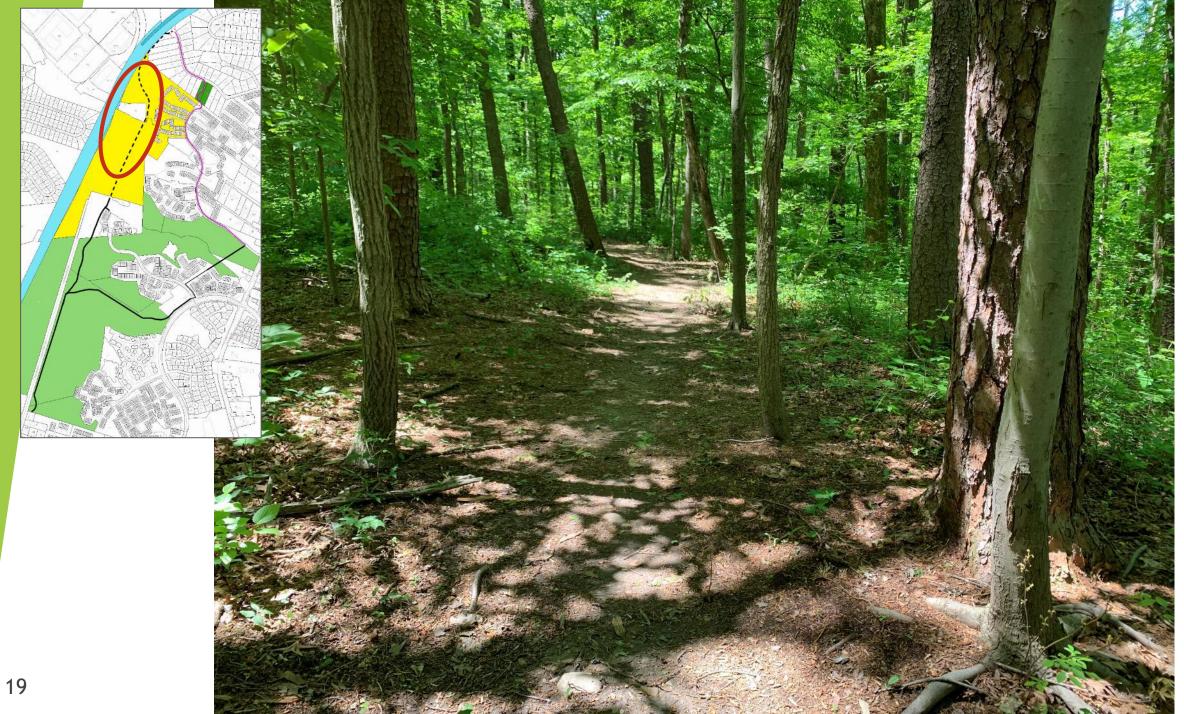
Acidic seepage swamps (G3; unmapped by DCR)

## Newington Conservation Site

What's there?











#### COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

#### DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION

Nathan Burrell Deputy Director of Government and Community Relations

> Thomas L. Smith Deputy Director of Operations

July 29, 2020

David Kwasniewski Whitman, Requardt & Associates 9030 Stony Point Parkway, Suite 220 Richmond, VA 23235

Re: Cinder Bed Road Bikeway-Revised

Dear Mr. Kwasniewski:

The Department of Conservation and Recreation's Division of Natural Heritage (DCR) has searched its Biotics Data System for occurrences of natural heritage resources from the area outlined on the submitted map Natural heritage resources are defined as the habitat of rare, threatened, or endangered plant and animal species, unique or exemplary natural communities, and significant geologic formations.

According to the information currently in our files, the Newington Conservation Site is located within the project site (Figure 1). Conservation sites are tools for representing key areas of the landscape that warrant further review for possible conservation action because of the natural heritage resources and habitat they support. Conservation sites are polygons built around one or more rare plant, animal, or natural community designed to include the element and, where possible, its associated habitat, and buffer or other adjacent land thought necessary for the element's conservation. Conservation sites are given a biodiversity significance ranking based on the rarity, quality, and number of element occurrences they contain; on a scale of 1-5, 1 being most significant. Newington Conservation Site has been given a biodiversity significance ranking of B4, which represents a site of moderate significance. The natural heritage resource of concern at this site is:

Coastal Plain / Outer Piedmont Acidic Seepage Swamp

G3?/S3/NL/NL

The Coastal Plain / Outer Piedmont Acidic Seepage Swamp (Acer rubrum – Nyssa sylvatica – Magnolia virginiana – Viburnum nudum – Osmunda cinnamomea – Woodwardia areolata Forest) is an acidic groundwater saturated swamp forest that ranges from southeastern New York and New Jersey to southeastern Virginia,





About the Data

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Adopt a Species

English



#### Association

Acer rubrum - Nyssa sylvatica - Magnolia virginiana / Viburnum nudum var. nudum / Osmunda cinnamomea Swamp Forest

Translated Name: Red Maple - Blackgum - Sweetbay / Possumhaw / Cinnamon Fern Swamp Forest

Common Name: Southern Red Maple - Blackgum Swamp Forest



NatureServe Element Code: CEGL006238

**Summary:** 

This acidic swamp forest of the eastern middle-latitude states is a nutrient-poor wetland forest occurring in groundwater-saturated stream bottoms and poorly drained depressions. Soils are typically moderately deep to deep muck over mineral soil, with pools of standing water at the surface. Acidic waters originate from groundwater seepage, with little to no overland seasonal flooding. Most sites can be characterized as "groundwater slope wetlands" (*sensu* Golet et al. 1993) with a flow-through hydrology. This community is characterized by *Acer rubrum* 





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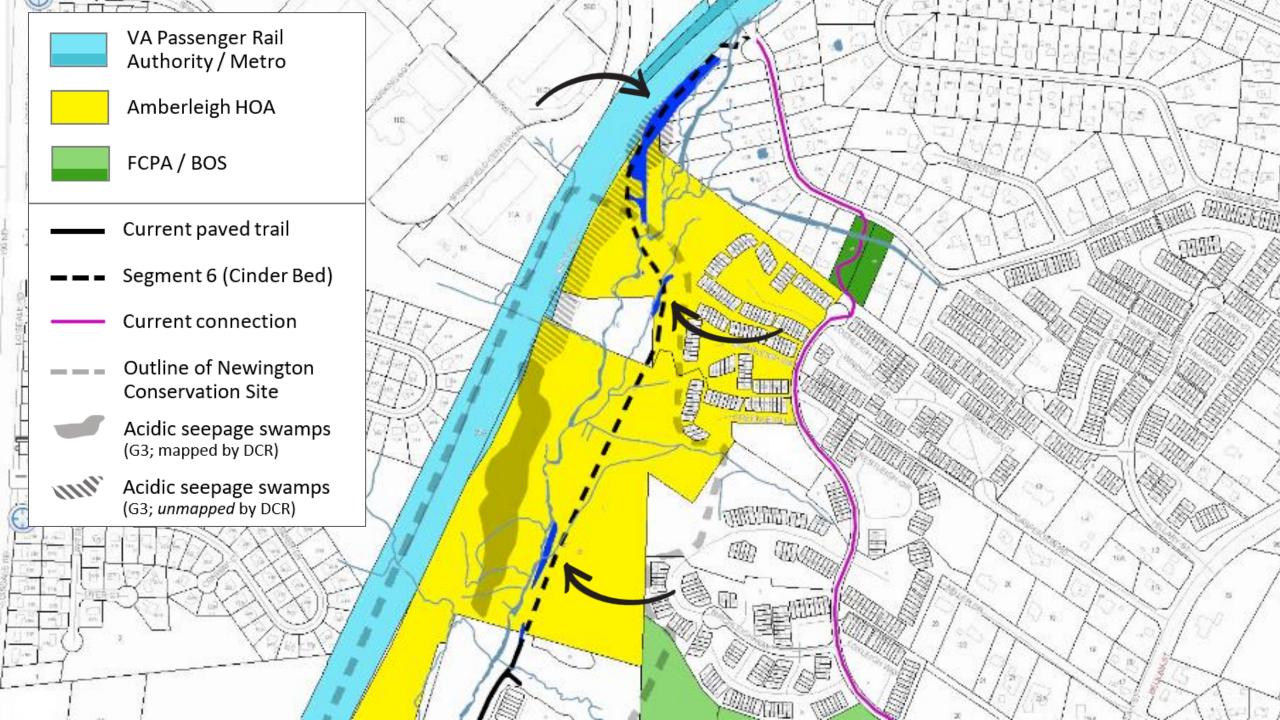


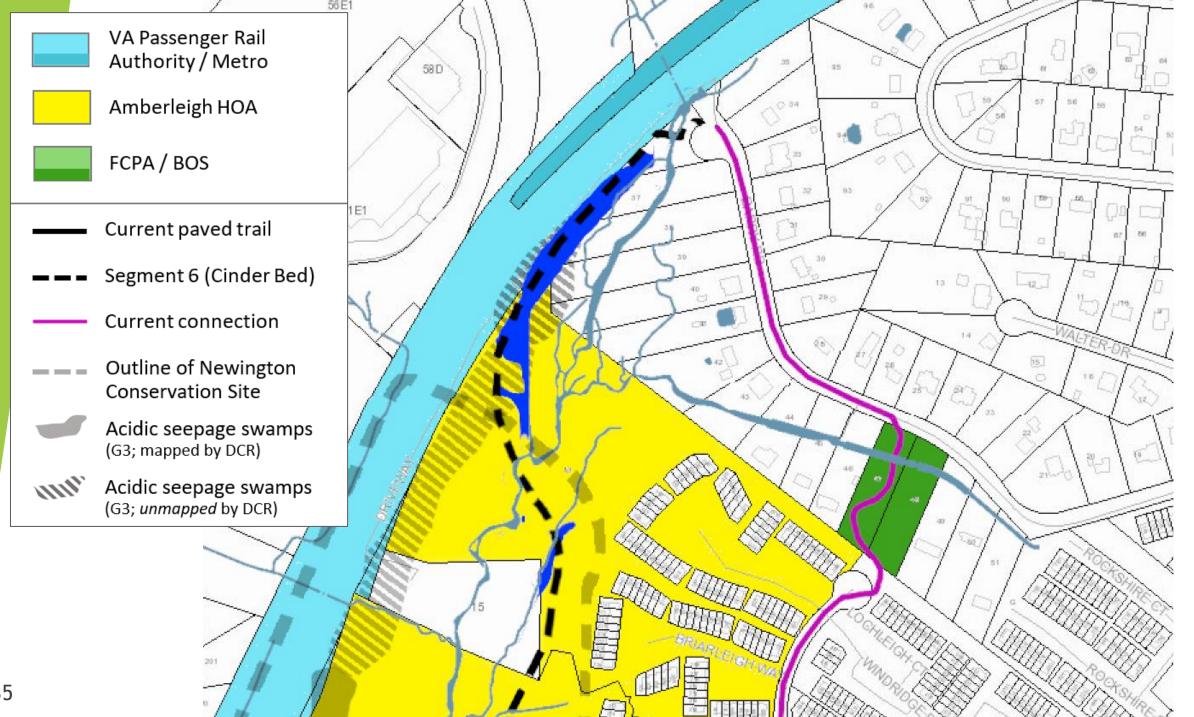






# What are the environmental risks of building Segment 6?







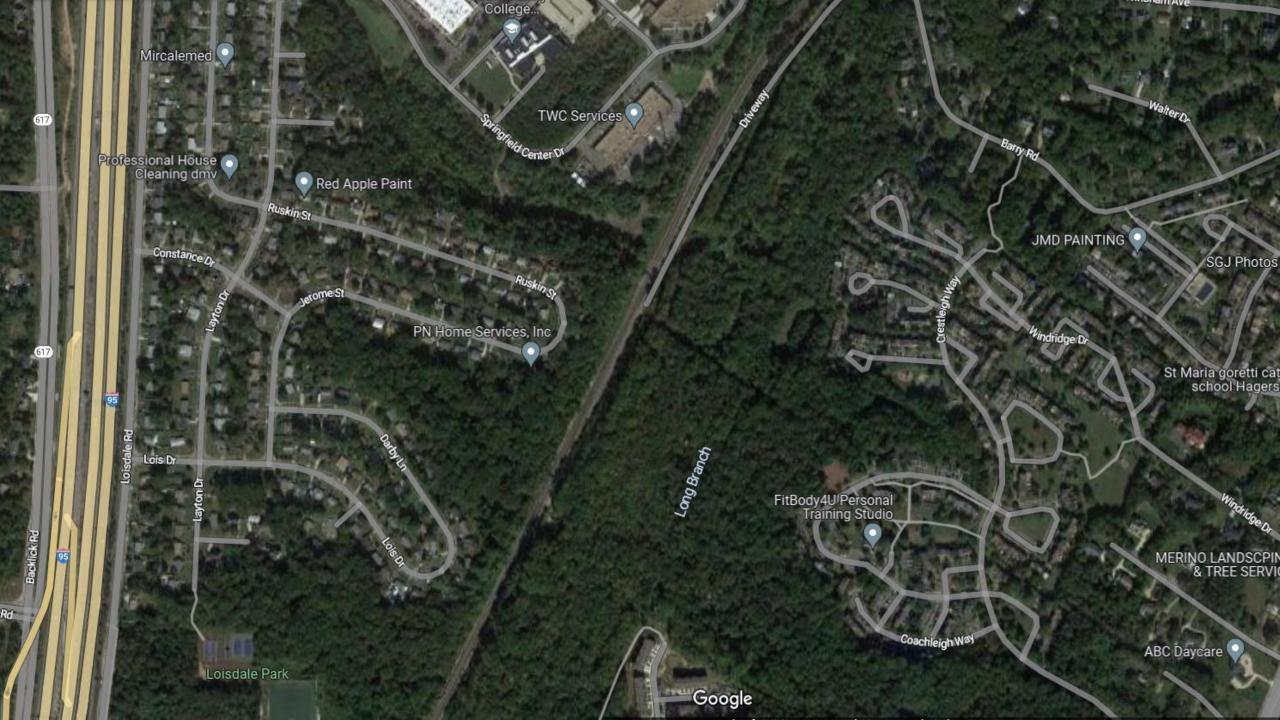
Excerpts from Virginia's Department of Conservation and Recreation's July 29, 2020 letter regarding the natural resources in the Newington Conservation Site as part of the Cinder Bed Road Bikeway "Phase I Environmental Site Assessment" documents from the Fairfax County Department of Transportation on page 42: <a href="https://drive.google.com/file/d/19\_sAmam9cDgM93Z8ew6kWKupxzX43ltS/view?usp=share\_link">https://drive.google.com/file/d/19\_sAmam9cDgM93Z8ew6kWKupxzX43ltS/view?usp=share\_link</a>

#### Acidic seepage swamps

"This uncommon wetland habitat is vulnerable to alteration...including hydrologic modifications (NatureServe, 2010)."

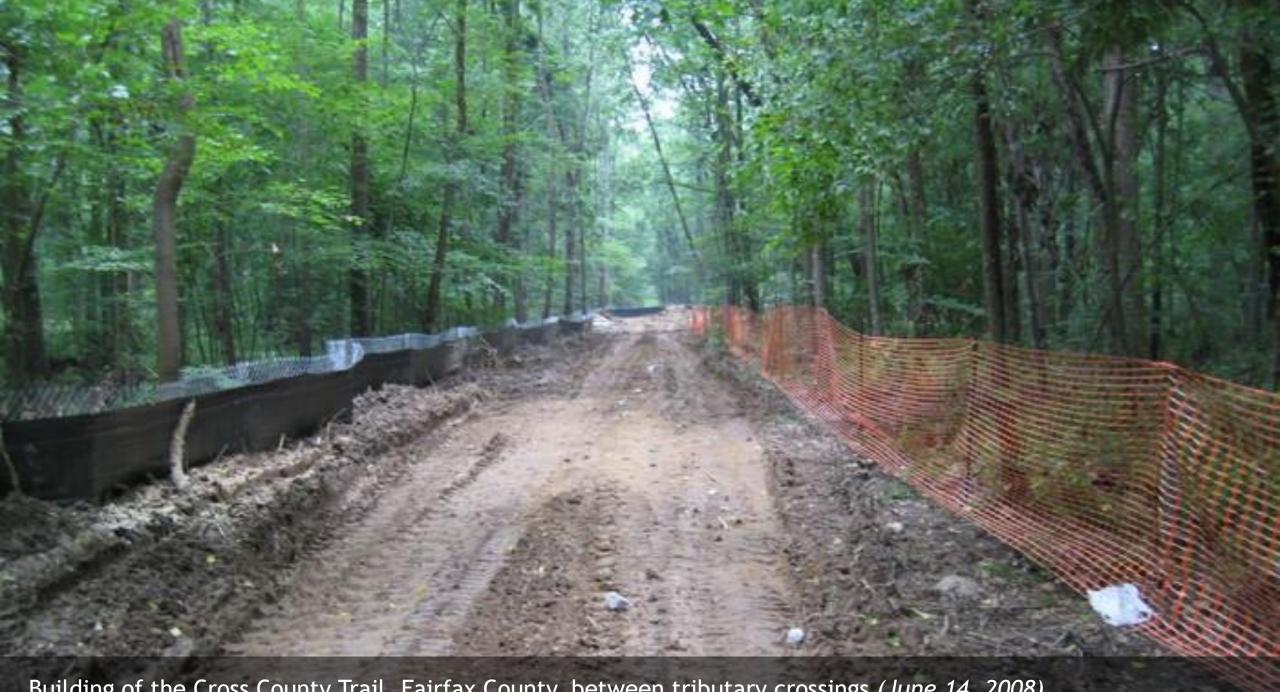
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"Trail construction and use often act as vectors for the spread of invasive plant species."







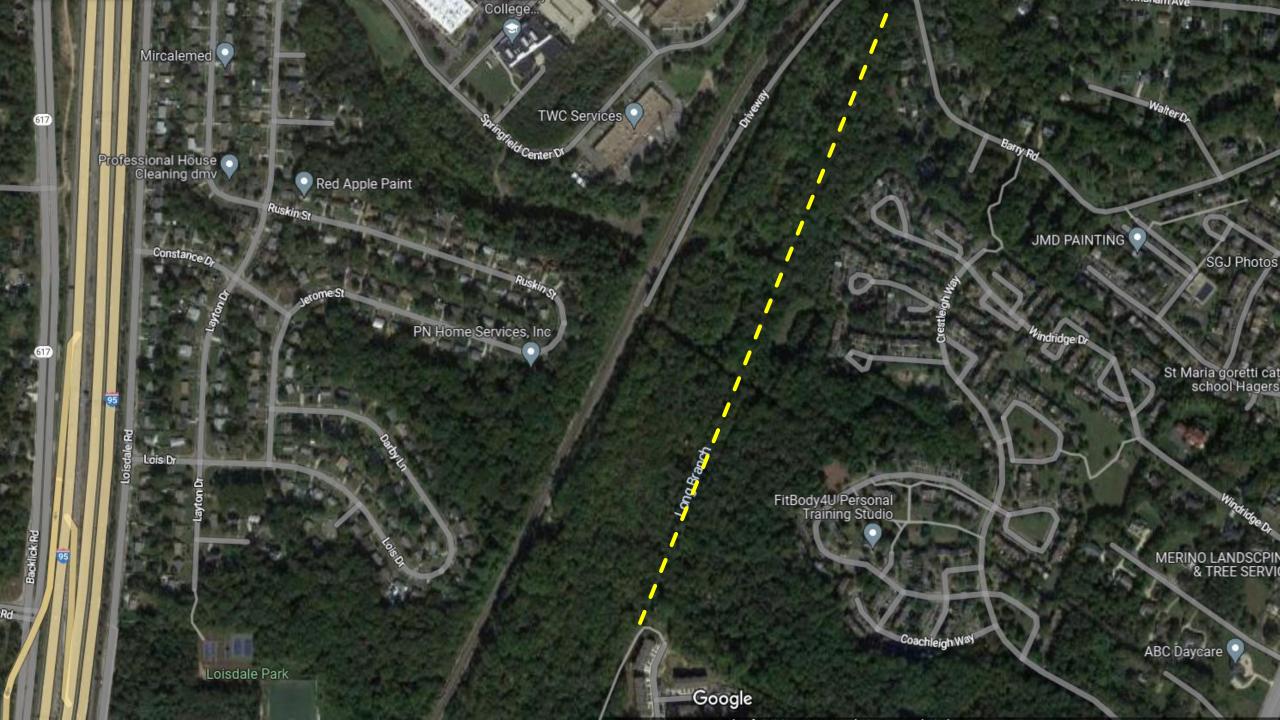


Building of the Cross County Trail, Fairfax County, between tributary crossings (June 14, 2008)



Building of the Cross County Trail, Fairfax County; permanent trail (right) and temporary staging area (left) at north bridge site (Sept 10, 2008)







### Artificial Lights Disrupt Wildlife

Artificial nighttime light has negative effects on birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians, insects and even plants:

Disrupts sleep patterns.

Increases stress.

Increases nighttime activity without corresponding increases in food consumption.

Disrupts breeding.





Fairfax County; surfaces must be maintained and/or sufficient investment must be made to build it with more resilience. Photo courtesy of Friends of Accotink Creek

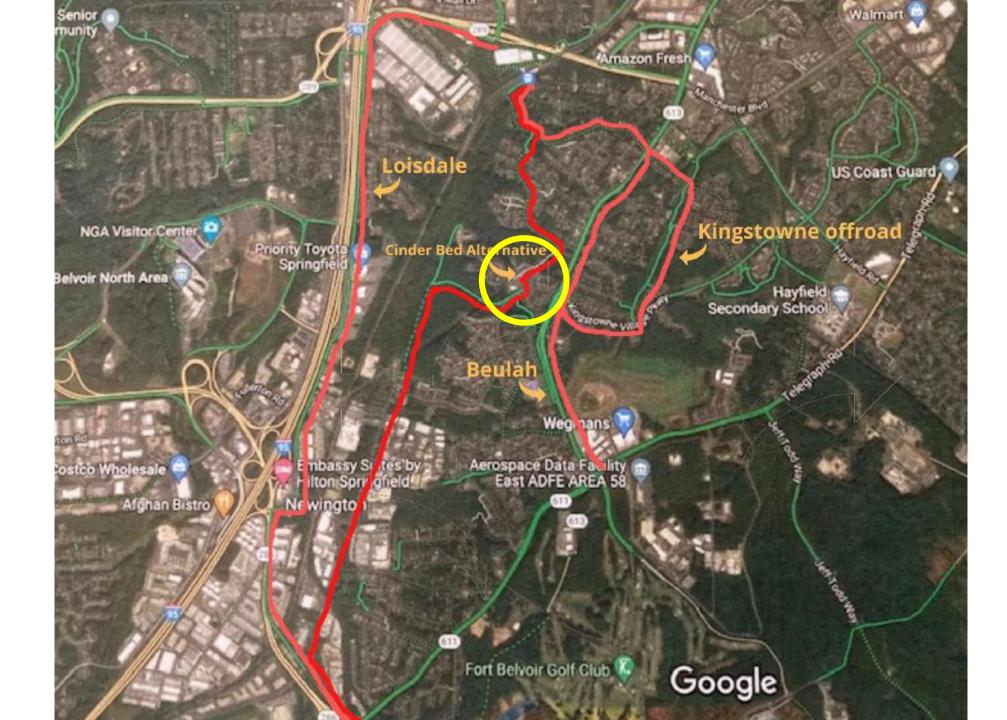


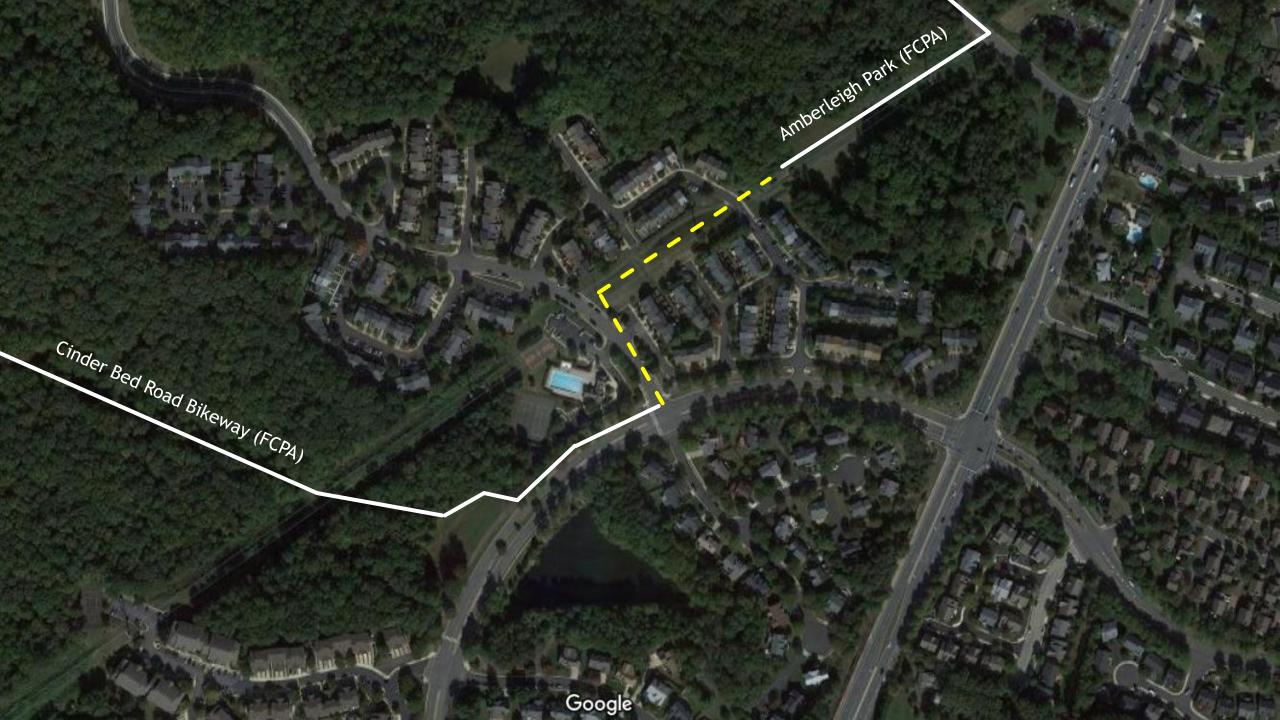
Americana Park, Fairfax County; flooding contributes to sediment deposits and other debris.

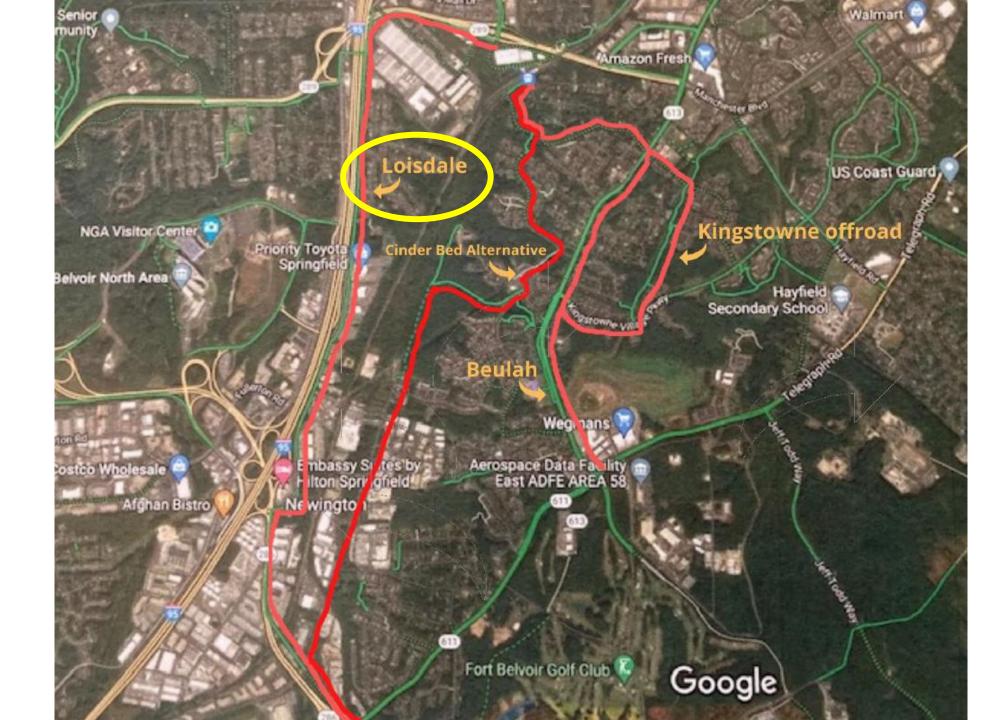
Photo courtesy of Friends of Accotink Creek

# What are the alternatives?









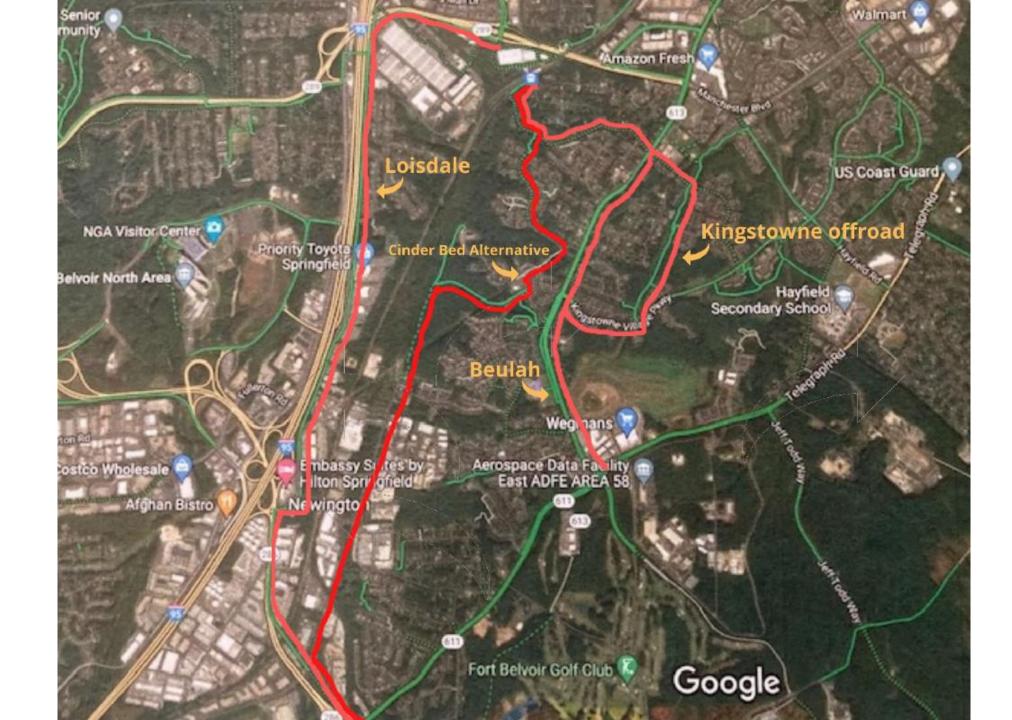






**Loisdale Road** lacks trees and shade, in addition to lacking maintenance, similar to these photos from the Fairfax County Parkway Trail (which is just across the 195 bike/ped bridge from Loisdale Rd.)





# What's happening now?





A Fairfax County, VA Publication. August 2021
To request this information in an alternate format call 703-324-5090, TTY 711

### The Right of Way Process

In August 2022, Fairfax County's Land Acquisition Division began the process of evaluating the value of Amberleigh HOA's land.

Once the value is determined, the HOA will receive a written offer to acquire the needed land rights.

#### The HOA owners will vote to decide

**NOTE**: This slide has been updated with more accurate information as of 4/20/23 @ 7:15pm.

It is our understanding that:

- After Amberleigh HOA receives the county's Right-of-Way offer, the HOA Board will put it to a vote of HOA owners.
- More than 2/3 of Amberleigh's owners must vote to approve the right-of-way purchase, or the vote fails.
- Anything other than the outcome above means that the HOA cannot approve the right-of-way purchase and therefore the county's offer will be rejected.
- The timing of when this vote might happen is unknown.

### Exact timing of next steps is unknown

- If Amberleigh HOA owners fail to approve the Right of Way, FCDOT could recommend that the county acquire the property by eminent domain (e.g. "condemnation").
- Prior to condemnation, a public hearing is held. The Board of Supervisors would vote for or against condemnation of the property at that hearing.
- If the Board of Supervisors votes for condemnation, then the trail would be built through Amberleigh woods.
- If the Board of Supervisors votes against condemnation, then the county would not obtain the right-of-way needed to build the trail.

# What can you do next?

## If you want to preserve Amberleigh's woods and wetlands, you can:

- (1) Vote "NO" when the Amberleigh HOA Board brings approval of the right-of-way offer to a vote of owners.
- (2) Ask Supervisor Lusk and Chairman McKay to remove Segment 6 from the plans for the Cinder Bed Road Bikeway proposal.

Chairman McKay: <u>Chairman@fairfaxcounty.gov</u> Supervisor Lusk: <u>Franconia@fairfaxcounty.gov</u>

(3) Tell your friends and neighbors to do the same.

#### **Contact information**



Renee Grebe Northern Virginia Conservation Advocate, Nature Forward

renee.grebe@natureforward.org



Betsy Martin
Audubon Society of
Northern Virginia
betsy@folhc.org



Philip Latasa Friends of Accotink Creek <a href="mailto:steward@accotink.org">steward@accotink.org</a>