



Park Authority Budget 2023
Comments of Friends of Accotink Creek

To: Members of the Board of Supervisors

April 6, 2023

Over the last 30 years FCPA has added 100 parks and 10,000 acres while its percentage of the General Fund steadily dropped from 3% in 1988 to only 0.6% since 2013.

Last year, the Board of Supervisors supported a reexamination of funding in quest of a more balanced and viable model. Now is the time to move forward toward stable and reliable funding of Fairfax County's parks

Some items of special funding concern:

- Invasive exotic plant species are rampant in our parks, making large areas inaccessible to visitors and steadily degrading natural habitat. Funding is needed for comprehensive and rapid control measures.
- Adequate funding for FCPA to be a full partner in Fairfax County's Zero Waste plan, reducing the trash that is an eyesore in parks and becomes pollution in our soil and waters.
- Land acquisition focused on stream buffer preservation and habitat connectivity between environmental corridors before opportunities are lost forever.
- Park staffing, in particular:
 - Invasive Management staffing should be doubled (or more), all positions should be made fulltime, and the backlog of volunteer site leader applicants should be cleared.
 - Fund the market-rate adjustment for FCPA Revenue Fund employee salaries. Not doing so will increase already too high turnover and loss of qualified staff.
 - Lake Accotink Park - This quote from the [1992 Lake Accotink Park General Management Plan](#) equally describes the current situation and requires remedy - *"The number of staff currently assigned to Lake Accotink is not adequate to maintain the park and provide reasonable levels of visitor service."* (p. 10)

Please increase FCPA's share of the General Fund to a level that will maintain parks that will make us all proud.

**Take Care of What We Have
 So What We Have Will Take Care of Us**

Friends of Accotink Creek

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