



Regarding Site Specific Plan Amendments Church of Good Shepherd

March 9, 2023

Regarding the Church of Good Shepherd Site-Specific Plan Proposal [BR-003](#)

The Church of Good Shepherd has shown consideration as a shepherd of the land and the water with its pervious parking lot and native plant gardens. It is with some regret that we see this area pass from these caring hands.

The Friends of Accotink Creek neither endorse nor oppose the proposal. However, we do lament that 2.5 acres of tree canopy will be lost for the gain of so few housing units so close to major thoroughfares.

In these times of heightened concern for climate change and stormwater management, the loss of any wooded area without replacement is unfortunate at best.

The proposed new parcels are in the watershed of the Long Branch tributary of Accotink Creek, a stream listed as impaired and subject of a TMDL recovery program for both [sediment](#) and [chloride](#). Fairfax County's [Long Branch Central Watershed Management Area Project](#) is a focused effort to address these problems. The proposal can contribute to that recovery by incorporating watershed-friendly features and practices beyond required minimums. We urge the Church of the Good Sheperd to consult now with the managers of the [Long Branch Central Watershed Management Area Project](#) toward that end, just as should any future new owner or developer.

In the spirit of the native plant gardens of the Church of the Good Shepherd, we would like to endorse the landscaping use of native plant species. Invasive exotic species relentlessly advance, even as new invaders continue to appear in the trade. Public and private landowners are left to struggle with the consequences. In any spots where natives just won't seem to do, then species known to be noninvasive should be used.

"But let justice run down like water, And righteousness like a mighty stream." - Amos 5:24

Friends of Accotink Creek

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