



Regarding Site Specific Plan Amendments – Vienna Transit

March 9, 2023

Regarding the Vienna Transit Site-Specific Plan Proposal [PR-005](#):

The Friends of Accotink Creek wish to applaud BCSP for resisting the temptation to build in the Resource Protection Area that forms a significant portion of the parcels. Too many other proposals fail to realize the importance of these Resource Protection Areas to the wellbeing of both streams and citizens.

The wooded areas in the Resource Protection Area along Hunters Branch are a horror story of invasive exotic vines. Please consider incorporating plans for habitat restoration, controlling exotics, and enhancing the health of the woods and stream, in collaboration with the County. The isolated sections of the parcels east of Nutley Street could be included in any such restoration project.

We would like to endorse the landscaping use of native plant species. Invasive exotic species are gradually taking over huge sections of our native habitats (as seen in the wooded areas of these parcels), requiring untold sums of money and countless hours of paid and volunteer labor to combat. In any situations where native species may not be practical, species known to be noninvasive should be used.

The [Accotink Gravity Sewer Project](#) will cross the wooded area of these parcels. Efforts to minimize the disturbance of habitat areas will be welcome.

As the immediate guardians of a portion of Hunters Branch, we urge BCSP to embrace that responsibility. Hunters Branch is a tributary of Accotink Creek, a stream listed as impaired and subject of a TMDL recovery program for both [sediment](#) and [chloride](#). This project can contribute to that recovery by incorporating watershed-friendly features and practices. New stormwater controls, for example, can go beyond regulatory minimums and be included as amenities without sacrificing wooded areas.

Thank you again for respecting the Resource Protection area along Hunters Branch.

Friends of Accotink Creek

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