

Suggestions Made to Fairfax Circle Small Area Plan Map by Friends of Accotink Creek

<https://engage.fairfaxva.gov/fairfax-circle-small-area-plan/maps/drop-a-pin>

Forego the Pickett Road Connector Trail. Let's spare the forest and spare the floodplain from further asphalt. Instead, enhance the existing Cross County Trail segment on Pickett Road which already leads bicyclists and pedestrians from the County into the Fairfax Circle Small Area. We are already paying taxes to maintain the existing connection. Let's use it before sacrificing forests to build redundant trails.

<https://www.accotink.org/2022/PickettRoadConnector.htm>

The Circle Gateway proposal already presents a plan to revitalize the former Lotte building.

<https://www.fairfaxva.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/19620/637949596390600000>

Make all the streets in the Fairfax Circle Small Area inviting and safe for non-motorized transport, connecting the Cross County Trail, Fairfax Connector Trail, and Blenheim Blvd project. This VDOT manual shows how:

https://www.virginiadot.org/programs/bikeped/biking_and_pedestrian_treatments.asp

The 2035 Comprehensive Plan describes a Fairfax Circle Activity Center providing "improved streetscape and pedestrian connections" and "concentrated bicycle supportive infrastructure". Let's make that happen.

<https://www.fairfaxva.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/15497/637286091082300000>

The list of six "Key Ideas" of the Circle Gateway proposal should inspire the larger Fairfax Circle Small Area Plan

<https://www.fairfaxva.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/19620/637949596390600000>

Hatmark Branch is a tributary of Accotink Creek that used to flow here, but is now confined to a storm drain from Rt 29 to Rt. 50. It should be returned to the surface. This would require a joint effort with the County.

Find ways to help the homeless living in the woods here and provide better life alternatives. The Lamb Center's permanent supportive housing project at the corner of Campbell Drive and Fairfax Blvd is laudable.

<https://www.thelambcenter.org/housing-project/>

Apply the Linear Park concept from the Northfax Small Area Plan.

<https://www.fairfaxva.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/15774/637305770880800000#page=8>

Incorporate Gateway Park as a gateway into the City for non-motorized travelers, leading from Pickett Road and the Cross County Trail along an Old Pickett Road transformed into a [Neighborway](#), right through the proposed archway and street extension of the [Circle Gateway](#) proposal.

Neighborways - <https://www.fairfaxva.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/16843/637384474284700000#page=14>

Circle Gateway - <https://www.fairfaxva.gov/government/community-development-planning/major-development-projects/circle-gateway-copy>

The Gateway Park Restoration project will restore floodplain wetlands. Let's look for opportunities to increase streamside forested buffer and floodplain function

<https://www.accotink.org/2023/Images/GatewayParkPresentationSlide.jpg>

Connect with Blenheim Blvd project for continuous safe non-motorized travel into commercial areas.

<https://www.fairfaxva.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/1898/635149641627330000>

Forego plans to extend the Wilcoxon Trail through the woods along Accotink Creek to Fairfax Blvd. Improve safe street routes instead to spare the forest and the creek from more asphalt.

Incorporate a Fairfax Connector Trail continuation westward along Fairfax Blvd into the Fairfax Circle Small Area.

The Cross County Trail runs along the east and north side of the Fairfax Circle Small Area on Pickett Road and Blake Lane. Collaborate with the County to make this segment more inviting to non-motorized travel.

Encourage/require the planting of native species throughout the Small Area.

Incorporate advanced stormwater controls transformed into attractive amenities as in Atlanta's Historic 4th Ward Park and Rodney Cook Sr. Park.

<https://www.hdrinc.com/portfolio/historic-fourth-ward-park>

<https://www.hdrinc.com/insights/park-and-so-much-more>

Increase tree cover wherever possible to mitigate the heat island effect of so much pavement.

Seconding the comments about protecting Accotink Creek. The creek runs along the entire southern boundary of the Fairfax Circle Small Area. It needs restored wooded buffer, returned floodplain function, and enhanced stormwater controls everywhere to reduce erosion.

Development proposals in general present the opportunity to advance environmentally sound practices– things like:

- Solar on rooftops,
- Electric vehicle charging spaces,
- Bicycle parking,
- Bird safe glass,
- Green roofs,
- Robust stormwater facilities,
- Dark sky lighting,
- Preserving and enhancing contiguous forest and habitat corridors