



Lake Accotink Preservation Feasibility Study Open House June 6, 2026

Comments of the Friends of Accotink Creek

To: Braddock, Mason, Franconia, & Springfield supervisors

There are no good solutions to the [Lake Accotink dredging dilemma](#).

The Open House seemed to provide little news, but did clarify two serious sticking points:

- No improved options for sediment dewatering sites have yet been found.
- No scheme of dredging for the sediment that will continue to accumulate outside a smaller lake seems to be in development.

The Friends of Accotink Creek wish to reiterate the key point we have emphasized since the dredging saga began:

- We must save the last population of [freshwater mussels](#) in Accotink Creek. Mussels exist only immediately downstream from the dam, because the lake captures enough sediment to prevent their being smothered, as has happened elsewhere on Accotink Creek.
- Any outcome that increases sediment flow over the dam onto the mussel beds will likely cause the extinction of mussels in Accotink Creek unless provision is made for their protection.

In addition:

- The case for continuous dredging, carried out with [small scale equipment](#), should be considered, akin to that done at Lake Barcroft.
- The proposals of the informed and committed neighbor [Martin Shepherd](#) should be given consideration.
- *"Give citizens work to do"*, was a plea made at a past public meeting. The contributions citizens can make should particularly be made a greater part of the ongoing [Long Branch Central Project](#), intended to reduce erosion upstream from the lake.

"The Mussel's Creed"

If when I stand before the seat of final judgment I can say:

- I accepted life without complaint,
- I harmed no fellow living thing,
- I lived each day in service to all around me,
- And perhaps once in a great while, I brought forth a pearl,
- ...I will be almost as worthy to enter as these lowly river mussels.

Let us not let these fellow creatures be sent to that judgment before their times.

- Care about Accotink Creek.



Friends of Accotink Creek

><(((°>~::~~><(((°> *"Find just one other person who cares."* ><(((°>~::~~><(((°>~::~~><(((°>