**Lorton Core Study - Plan Amendment 2021-IV-LP1 Comments**

June 21, 2026

To – Fairfax County Department of Planning and Development
Members of Board of Supervisors

A portion of the study area lies within the Accotink Creek watershed. As a volunteer watershed preservation group, the language of the study offers much that is pleasing to our ears:

- 😊 "acquisition of additional acreage in environmentally sensitive areas as part of the Environmental Quality Corridor program" p. 52
- 😊 "discouraging development in environmentally sensitive areas such as steep slopes, unstable soils, floodplains, and locations with significant ecological resources" p. 53
- 😊 "reduction to impervious coverage for surface parking lots, increased open space, expanded pervious areas, native vegetation, and measures that reduce flooding risks, restore natural hydrology, and protect sensitive ecological resources" p. 53
- 😊 "impacts to the undisturbed Resource Protection Areas and floodplains be avoided" p. 53
- 😊 "Native landscaping that contributes to defining attractive and functional, high-quality urban park environments are recommended to create valuable open space amenities rather than minimal grass strip areas" p. 58
- 😊 "avoid any further degradation of environmentally sensitive resources of the Accotink Creek RPA and EQC" p. 66, Attachment I
- 😊 "provide for local infiltration to be incorporated into the stormwater system design to provide groundwater recharge" p. 82, 83, Attachment I

But there is a discordant note:

- 😞 "portions of the stream valleys and riparian areas of Pohick Creek, Accotink Creek, and Giles Run are recommended for stream valley trails" p.109

Figure 20 appears to envision trails along Accotink Creek even beyond those depicted in the Active Fairfax Plan. We maintain that any addition of pavement (and lighting) into our few remaining natural habitats is per se a degradation that must be avoided, whether for economic or recreational use.

We have taken so much from our natural habitats already. The time has come to leave what little remains in peace. Instead, let's pursue the "Urban Parks Framework" vison (p. 57, 58) to provide these amenities in the heart of our neighborhoods without sacrifice of woods and wetlands.

Friends of Accotink Creek

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