

**ARMY-NAVY COUNTRY CLUB PLANS MAJOR TREE-CUTTING
ALONG DANIELS RUN IN FAIRFAX CITY**

I may have stitched the emails on this subject together in a rambling, stream-of-consciousness way, but the message is clear: **Help prevent this habitat devastation on the banks of an Accotink Creek tributary!**

Philip Latasa, March 2008

Date: March 8, 2008 7:32:35 PM EST

To: Frankie Hull

Subject: RE: keep stormwater in headwaters and out of Accotink Creek.

Dear Frankie,

I thought you might be interested to know that the application has been postponed until April 8th to allow for possible accommodation by the country club of the suggestions of the arborist consultant.

-----Original Message-----

From: Frankie Hull

Sent: Friday, March 07, 2008 1:43 PM

Subject: Re: keep stormwater in headwaters and out of Accotink Creek.

Thank you very much for your quick response to my concerns.

I agree with everything you said, except for the "... an almost classic conflict of ecological interests vs. economic interests." There's a very important question that comes to mind: Do the "economic interests" in this case rest almost entirely on benefiting the Country Club?

I learned from the engineer with the NVSWCS that some (I've no firm number ... perhaps 3 or more) private properties are being eroded at this time. If these home owners don't want their property values to drop, they must themselves pay for any restoration costs. More importantly, if they take no action, there's a very real risk that eventually their house/s could be structurally threatened. If my scenario is accurate, I see this situation as transferring an economic gain for a group to an economic loss for a few individuals.

Further, what price can be put on ecological interests? This case of a golf course is another small piece of how people in Fairfax County comprehend the interconnectedness of all life forms. When we were traveling in China a year and a half ago, we saw numerous examples of putting economic growth above all else. Perhaps you will bear with me while I relate an activity I used with 7th grade students when I was teaching at Key Intermediate in the 1970's and 80's.

Using an aquarium almost full of water, I asked two students to assist in demonstrating an ecological principle. Each had a bucket and a measuring cup; "progress's" cup held about twice the amount of water as the cup that "status quo" had (his/her bucket was empty at the start, while "progress" had a full bucket of water). Of course you can see where this is going. The first student added water to the aquarium as fast as possible, while the second student bailed water ... with the smaller cup, pouring that water into his/her bucket ... trying to empty the aquarium so "disaster" didn't result.

The students didn't come up with a clear answer (to the question of when is too much really too much), which mirrors the difficult decision you and the rest of the council will be making. But the meaning of my classroom activity IS clear: How much is too much-- and when should it be faced?

One more point I'd like to make is this: what economic price can be attached to physical and mental health? Those economic realities are difficult to nearly impossible to quantify. Since my days as a

teacher (about the time of the first Earth Day) more people have tried harder to put a price on "ecological interests" (add health) so everyone could learn that there are real money considerations on both sides. Who "wins" on the 11th is immaterial in the long run. What I think is essential is that our citizens are able to comprehend the true and entire "classic conflict of ecological interests vs. economic interests."

Respectfully,
Frankie Hull

On Mar 6, 2008, at 11:14 PM,

Dear Mrs. Hull,

Thank you so much for expressing your concerns regarding the Army Navy Country Club application. Obviously, you have loved living near and have enjoyed Accotink Creek for many years. This is an almost classic conflict of ecological interests vs. economic interests. I have spent considerable time studying the matter and touring the golf course facility. Tonight was an informative meeting with the owners of adjacent properties and the officials from Army Navy. Nearly 150 pages of studies and reports must be read prior to Tuesday's meeting. I will certainly keep your thoughts in mind as we come to a decision on this matter.

Re: Frankie Hull: I urge you to consider not only current residents of downstream communities, but also consider the condition of these ecosystems which we will leave to our grandchildren.

From: Frankie Hull
Sent: Thu, 6 Mar 2008 21:49:11 -0500
Subject: Re: keep stormwater in headwaters and out of Accotink Creek

Dear Mayor Robert F. Lederer and Council Members,

I was horrified to learn yesterday that the Army Navy Country Club wants to cut down 550 mature trees and reduce the stream buffer zone in some areas.

I was one of those volunteers the morning the CBF, Fish and Wildlife Service, Friends of Daniels Run, and others directed is in restoration activities at the Army Navy Country Club. We planted many native seedlings on the restored stream banks within the golf course. The finished project is a fantastically good example of people 'Going Green' and 'Taking Care of the Environment.' ANCC can be rightfully proud to be a northern Virginia leader in responsible stewardship of the earth...

... that is, until they proposed this tree-cutting, grass planting fiasco-in-the-making for those of us who live downstream. Please consider my observations before you vote:

My name is Frankie Hull. For 38 years we have resided in Mason District, outside the beltway, in a house overlooking the Accotink Creek. I've seen many changes in the once ecologically balanced native plant and animal communities which comprised the section of "unimproved county parkland" officially called Accotink Creek Park (located south of the garden plots near the hospital.)

For the Accotink flood plain outside the beltway to Woodburn Road ... and farther west ... none of these changes has been for the better from an ecological perspective, NOR from an esthetic viewpoint, with the exception of the Cross County Trail. Recent construction of the CCT has not been a negative because it was planned and constructed to minimize impacts on stream valleys. The Trail aside, we now overlook an area that, while still pretty in some seasons, looks different than it did in 1970. Neighbors are beginning to refer to it as "weedy, overgrown, muddy, even ugly," especially after a rainstorm this time of year.

Basically, the cause is erosion. Tragically the damage is worsening; in recent years it's happening faster

and faster. Since about 2003, I've been able to quantify increased degradation over as little as a 6-10 month period. But in just the past 4 months (since November) changes are noticeable after any rainstorm.

These "worse and happening faster" erosion problems can't be attributed to more rain since 2003, so the logical explanation can only be upstream "development" -- that is, increasing bit by bit the amount of impervious surfaces such as roofs and streets, and allowing more runoff. Recently Lake Accotink had to be dredged, ... again. Frankly, I'd prefer to see my tax dollars NOT be spent on "Dredging-Required-Because-We-Still-Don't-Get It."

Strengthened regulations which must be observed by builders of new developments has no parallel regulations being applied to in-fill construction, or to those "upgrading a neighborhood" by increasing individual house sizes.

Perhaps if only one garage is doubled or small porch added, the increased run-off would be undetectable. Probably if one tree is cut and the ground underneath is converted to lawn, the increased run-off would still be undetectable. Repeat that many times over, however, and the picture changes.

Ideally, all runoff water from commercial or private property should be held on-site (or very near by) until it percolates into the soil. Two advantages would be realized: our groundwater would increase, and those of us downstream could watch as the sections of the Accotink flowing through our neighborhoods recovers from the near drowning.

To maintain a quality lifestyle for long time residents as well as people who have moved into the area recently, we all must eventually come to comprehend...

- (A) ... that our local water table is consistently lower than it was previously.
- (B) ... that not dredging Lake Accotink saves tax dollars -- less erosion equals less taxes.
- (C) ... that mowed lawns require much water, wasting a finite natural resource.
- (D) ... that chemical fertilizers and pesticides leach into local streams, eventually ending up in the Chesapeake. Studies show certain chemicals can gradually build up in bodies of water until a level is reached where it's detrimental to most life forms, including humans.
- (E) ... that many small changes may actually have the greatest benefits. Failing to provide incentives for, or simply not allowing bad environmental practices in established neighborhoods and/or commercial areas will eventually overtake any benefits sought by stiffening regulations for new construction in headwater areas.

Too many of us in Fairfax County can not yet comprehend complex interactions within the natural world; so, sadly, the health of the Bay is still in critical condition, just like 35 years ago when we started "Saving The Bay". And the health of the Accotink is already at a critical low.

If you'd like to see firsthand before your meeting on the 11th what happens downstream when "in-fill", renovation, and additional impervious surfaces are allowed upstream, please call at your first opportunity to let me know a time convenient for you. Our phone number is (703) 280-5627.

It would be very shortsighted, in my opinion, to cut down 500+ trees, and to replace now porous surfaces with grass, which will not only add to the amount of water run-off, but also increase the speed of run-off.

I urge you to consider not only current residents of downstream communities, but also consider the condition of these ecosystems which we will leave to our grandchildren.

Because I am unable to come to the council meeting, I especially thank each of you for taking time to read this letter.

Sincerely,
Frankie Hull

(Mrs. Robert L. Hull)

From: Heather Montgomery
Sent: Sunday, March 09, 2008 9:21 PM
Subject: Please prevent Army Navy County Club from cutting trees and reducing stream buffer

Dear Mayor Lederer and Fairfax City Council members,

I am writing to you on behalf of Potomac Conservancy- a non-profit that strives to protect the health, beauty and enjoyment of the Potomac River and its tributaries through policy, land protection, and restoration- urging you to prevent the Army Navy County Club from cutting down 550 mature trees and reducing areas of stream buffer on their property.

Trees are major assets for urban ecological health, valued for their utility and the array of ecosystem services they provide for humans and wildlife alike. Fairfax County's tree canopy, which covers around 104,000 acres, is estimated to intercept and absorb 5.5 million pounds of gaseous and particulate air pollution per year. Since the early 1970's, Fairfax County has seen a 48% decline in tree canopy, an area equivalent to 85,6000 acres. Lost tree canopy had the capacity to remove approximately 2.4 million combined pounds of sulfur dioxide, carbon monoxide, ozone, and particulate matter (10 microns or less) annually, at a value of approximately \$6.8 million per year. In addition, Fairfax County has experienced significant decreases in water quality, energy conservation and other socio-economic and environmental benefits associated with urban forests.

In July 2007, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors adopted a 30-Year Tree Canopy Goal that aims to blanket 45 percent of the county with tree cover by 2037. The goal is one of the most ambitious for any local government in the metropolitan Washington, D.C., area. Once achieved, the canopy goal is expected to save taxpayers money. The trees when matured should provide \$5.3 million of air pollution removal and \$4.7 million of energy conservation every year. The additional canopy also will have the capacity to absorb more than 10 million pounds of carbon dioxide annually, which could eliminate the need for \$1 million in greenhouse gas reduction services each year.

As demonstrated by Fairfax County's Board of Supervisors, we should be making a commitment to preserve and INCREASE valuable tree canopy in Fairfax County. On Tuesday, March 11, please vote against allowing the Army Navy Country Club to reduce tree canopy and areas of stream buffer zone to merely widen some fairways and reduce shade so grass can be grown.

Respectfully,
Heather Montgomery

Conservation Program Associate
Potomac Conservancy

From: "Judy Okay"
Date: March 11, 2008 8:35:27 AM EDT
Subject: RE: Tree Credit & Fairfax City Council...

I contacted Jim McGlone the Dept. of Forestry Fairfax County Conservation forester. He has been out to the site and discussing it with others. I also called the National Fish and Wildlife Service that did the work last year and the National Fish and Wildlife Fund that gave a large grant for the stream work completed last year. They (the golf course) got a lot of good press out of the work last year, they are really swinging in the opposite direction from the appearance presented last year. Active citizens often make a big difference. Thanks for being involved. Judy Okay

From: Frankie Hull
 Sent: Monday, March 10, 2008 8:05 PM
 Subject: Re: Tree Credit & Fairfax City Council...

Thank you, Judy, for this helpful information. Because the Fairfax City Council has postponed until next month making a decision on whether or not to allow the Country Club to cut any or all of those 500+ trees, we all have a bit more time to study the options. I'm sure other interested groups/individuals will be conferring with each other, and learning more about jurisdictions (such as our Fairfax County Supervisors?) now being able to tighten protection ordinances already in place.

In appreciation,
 Frankie Hull

On Mar 10, 2008, at 8:39 AM, Judy Okay wrote:

I don't know if you are aware of the new state legislation enabling jurisdictions to pass tree protection ordinances or tighten the ones they have. It was in the Wash. Post this past weekend. It should improve what happens with development and tree saves because extra credit is given for protection rather than depending on restoration/compensation. I am not familiar with the new stream work being done at the Country Club, I know they did some work last year and it turned out well, but I was disappointed in the grass replacement of trees, but then that is golfers not wanting their sight line to the green blocked and any excuse to get that sight line is utilized. The type of stream restoration they have done in the past requires some cutting of trees along the bank, but 500 hundred is a lot and hard to believe necessary.

I would suggest you get in touch with Chesapeake Bay Local Assistance, Alice Baird at: 804-225-2307. I am not sure if the stream restoration has been approved if anything can be done, but it might be possible to reduce the number of trees removed.

Judy Okay

From: Frankie Hull
 Sent: Sunday, March 09, 2008 5:00 PM
 To: Judy Okay
 Subject: Fwd: Tree Credit & Fairfax City Council... and a small rain garden

Dear Judy Okay,

My name is Frankie Hull and I was so favorably impressed when you spoke to Camelot Garden Club members a couple years back on the topic of "Rain Gardens." Currently I'm an IMA site leader with that FCPA Program which is now in it's 3rd year. I'm gradually developing in my IMA site a small 'demonstration' rain garden to even better handle run-off from the back half of our roof.

For a number of years I've been encouraging native wildflowers to continue growing nearby in the "unimproved parkland" that borders our quarter-acre property on two sides; currently there're almost 40 native species of shrubs, forbs and ferns plus the trees. Recently, I've made this short wildflower ID walk available to three Boy Scout Troops and any interested Girl Scout Troop in Service Unit 55-7 -- but so far, only my daughter's 2 troops (Brownies and Juniors) have taken advantage of my offer to act as a badge consultant.

Our house overlooks the Accotink Creek; the nearest stream bank is still some distance from the edge of our property, but since it's a shallow back yard, we're close enough to view Canadian geese, mallards, a heron and a kingfisher, and many other delightful creatures. Previously, (we moved here in 1969) on rare occasions we'd catch glimpses of quail, flying squirrels, and baby box turtles, plus a nice stand of sassafras trees --all of which have not been seen since the late '80s-early '90s. The Accotink's flood plain in the area between Woodburn Road and the beltway north of Little River Turnpike has already been

scoured of many native plants ... and trees are askew as though a small tornado passed near-by.

As you can guess, I'm passionate about trying to slow down the erosion that is rapidly increasing, due to both volume of water and speed of destruction. Therefore, when I heard about the Army-Navy Country Club's (and Fairfax City council members about to rubber stamp) plans to cut so many mature trees and plant more grass, it became clear I had to let my views be heard.

"Oh, but the regulations for new construction have been tightened up in recent years" is the mantra I've been told repeatedly. Fine and Dandy! But what is being done to offset the addition of impervious surfaces, such as more roof area when a house is enlarged, or swimming pools and wider driveways put in? How do regulators look at "in-fill" construction -- just a bigger tax base? Plus a chance to keep a growing population living close in rather than spreading out into rural areas (where the regulations are more stringent, of course).

Now we have "tree credits". How does that actually translate to reparations? Does it mean that if the Fairfax City Council gives the ANCC the go-ahead to cut those 500 ... or 300+... trees, then the Country Club will have to come into my 38 year old community and repair this section of the Accotink stream valley? I was one of the volunteers who helped with the repair of a section of Daniel's Run that runs through the Country Club.

And besides the (possible) repair to this 4-mile stretch of creek and the planting of 500 ... or 300+... trees seedlings here, shouldn't the County Club plant a few more trees to compensate for additional destruction to the entire length of the Accotink from the faster, higher volume of water that's anticipated?

Will "tree credits" REALLY mitigate erosion damage in any other section of the rest of Fairfax County Parkland along the entire Accotink stream valley? Will "tree credits" start to address the additional pollution (chemical as well as sediment) to Lake Accotink, and to the Chesapeake Bay? What about unspoiled places where our grandchildren's children can see parkland as it was before?

If the approval for this tree-cutting, water-wasting, stream valley degradation-causing plan is actually given by the City Council, it strikes me as gross arrogance of God's command to be "good stewards" of all He has provided for our use.

Most respectfully,
Frankie Hull

From: "Duane"

Date: March 8, 2008 7:46:55 PM EST

Subject: Tree Credit & Fairfax City Council deciding to permit cutting of 300 or more trees.

Judy Okay,

My name is Duane Murphy, Coordinator, Friends of Accotink Creek and Treasurer, Northern VA Trout Unlimited (NVATU). Friends of Accotink Creek, in partnership with NVATU, is restoring Accotink Creek to a more pristine environment for all to enjoy, but we have a few roadblocks and hurdles to overcome, especially with organizations and municipalities who want to cut down trees in the watershed. Request your help and guidance.

I attended a Green Breakfast last year where you spoke on tree credits and Chesapeake Bay Foundation. Where may we find out how the tree credit program/process works to benefit organizations and municipalities such as, Army Navy Country Club and City of Fairfax.

Currently, we have a problem we believe you need to know about, with which you may be able to energize CBF to help. City of Fairfax is considering permitting Army Navy Club to cut trees.

Perhaps you know of Friends of Daniels Run Park advocates, Ann Powel and Val Morgan. They wrote many local organizations asking for help. See her email below. Are you familiar with the issue or can put us in touch with those in CBF and Fish and Wildlife Foundation who donated funds to help Army Navy Club restore Daniels Run so we can find out if this action was considered part of that effort, or is this a new development that surprised most?

Can you or another "friend" from CBF help her by attending the 11 March City Council Meeting to support Friends of Daniels Run Park position to protect the trees? Please coordinate with Ann Powel and Val Morgan.

Thank you! We appreciate you, your help and your guidance in this matter!

Very respectfully,
Duane

From: Duane
Sent: Friday, March 07, 2008 10:08 PM
Subject: [FACc] FW: Corrected addresses Help Save 550, 536, or 300 Mature Trees in Fairfax City!

Friends,

I've recently been told the number is closer to 536 trees and the Army Navy Country Club may have further reduced the number to about 300 mature trees.

However, I've learned in another similar project there many more "scrub" trees will be cut that don't make the count.

Very respectfully,

Duane

This is bad news for the newly restored Daniels Run and our already drowning Accotink Creek.

Please write City Council as Ann Powel requests. We also need to contact the Fish and Wildlife Service and Chesapeake Bay Foundation who helped restore Daniels Run last summer to the tune of several hundred thousand dollars and ask them to help convince Army Navy Country Club to not do it.

Very respectfully,

Duane
Friends of Accotink Creek

From: Ann Powel
Sent: Thursday, March 06, 2008 1:24 PM
Subject: Corrected addresses Help Save 550 Mature Trees in Fairfax City!

HELP SAVE 550 MATURE TREES in FAIRFAX CITY!

Army Navy Country Club wants to cut down 550 mature trees and reduce the stream buffer zone in some areas.

WHY? They want to widen some fairways and reduce shade so grass can be planted.

WHY IS THIS BAD?

- * One acre of TREES absorbs 6 TONS of CARBON DIOXIDE and puts out 4 TONS of OXYGEN per year, enough oxygen to meet the needs of 18 people.
- * Reducing the buffer zone along the stream will increase water pollution since herbicides and chemical fertilizers will be used on the grass right up to the edge.
- * Tree roots hold soil in place resulting in less runoff and erosion.
- * Trees have a cooling effect and moderate ground temperatures.
- * Trees have aesthetic value and their removal will affect the view for everyone.
- * Tree removal will reduce habitat for birds and other animals.
- * Carbon dioxide will be released by cutting the trees adding to global warming.
- * Cutting trees and growing more grass will increase the need for water.

The City Council is meeting TUESDAY MARCH 11 at 7:00 p.m. to decide whether to allow this tree cutting to proceed.

Please e-mail, write, or call the Mayor and City Council and COME TO THE MEETING IN CITY HALL ANNEX ON APRIL 8.

To view the first hearing and download documents presented at this hearing go to:

http://fairfax.granicus.com/AgendaViewer.php?view_id=2&clip_id=132
<http://fairfax.granicus.com/AgendaViewer.php?view_id=2&clip_id=132

For more information contact: Ann Powel 703-352-3760, apowel[AT]mindspring.com or Val Morgan 703-279-1153, morganvaleriem[AT]hotmail.com Friends of Daniels Run Park

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