

DATE	SOURCE	COMMENT
<b>2/19/2016</b>		Public Announcement of PIM
2/26/2016	Parkmail	Please add an off road bike trail from Wakefield Park (eg. Wakefield Rec Center) to Lake Accotink.
<b>3/14/2016</b>		<b>PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING</b>
3/15/2016	Parkmail	For your consideration, I would like to see a trail system across part of the wetland areas that is similar to the one installed at Huntley Meadows. It would be designated for walking and photography only, no dogs, joggers or bicycles. Maybe an observation tower could be included. If there are over 116 species of birds at the park this would be a great opportunity for bird watchers and photographers. The advantage that this would have over Huntley is that it would be a clear separation between the more lively park activities with the carousel, picnic and boating area verses a quieter bird watching, nature appreciating area.
3/15/2016	Parkmail	I attended the Master plan meeting this evening and forgot to leave my green comment card. I hope you keep lots of nature at Lake Accotink and don't over commercialize it. I love the park and think it is a real treasure!
3/15/2016	Parkmail	<p>Following up last night's meeting herewith are some suggestions for the park.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-- Don't overdevelop. Current capacity is about right.</li> <li>-- Build the long overdue bridge over the creek below the dam.</li> <li>-- Add a play ground aimed at older kids. The current pre-school lot is not sufficient. All elementary schools have play grounds for their kids, so should the park.</li> <li>-- Improve debris removal from the lake.</li> <li>-- Begin an anti-litter campaign, Multi-lingual signage encouraging folks to put trash in cans might help. Add a trash can to the point where the upper parking lot trail leads down towards the marina. Too many folks do not bother to go over to the trash can half way down the parking lot.</li> <li>-- Dredge the lake.</li> <li>-- Clean up the streams, especially Flag Run and the stream between Heming Ave and Long Pine. It is essentially a sewer for the beltway. Although it does not flow into the lake, it does flow into Accotink Creek inside the park.</li> <li>-- Eradicate poison ivy, at least where it infringes on the trails.</li> <li>-- Remove the yard debris illegally dumped into the park on Heming Ave. across from Heming Court. (Ed said he would take care of this).</li> <li>-- Remove the dog pen from the upper field. It is not used so why have the fenced area?</li> <li>-- Encourage park employees not to drive trucks on soft, mushy fields and trails.</li> <li>-- Clean or better yet remove the gutters from the upper pavilion.</li> </ul> <p>Thanks for your consideration of these suggestions. R. Gribbin</p>
3/19/2016	email	<p>The area of Lake Accotink Park is critical to the Accotink Stream Valley Watershed.</p> <p>Most--if not all of the ASV north of the impoundment are impaired--incapable of supporting a viable benthic population.</p> <p>If these wetlands are not protected then the entire ASV will be lost.</p> <p>The last best hope for the ASV is for Lake Accotink Park to be designated as a natural resource park managed as a conservation management area that applies the ecological approach of resource management to the operation of public recreational lands.</p>
3/20/2016	email	<p>As you know I have been following the master planning process for several years.</p> <p>I have made numerous FOIA requests in an attempt to obtain information on the environmental condition of Flag Run which is a major tributary entering the impoundment now referred to as Lake Accotink.</p> <p>Before Accotink Creek was dammed in 1918, this tributary would have flowed directly into Accotink Creek.</p> <p>As you are aware this tributary as well as the upper reach of Accotink Creek along with the lake are designated as impaired by the EPA under the Clean Water Act.</p> <p>In many ways the Accotink Stream Valley is a microcosm of the Potomac River Valley ecosystem. What has happened to the ASV is currently happening in other stream valleys throughout northern Virginia so what happens here is of relevance to the health of the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem.</p> <p>I would like to know whether the FCPA intends to perform an environmental baseline study which clearly identifies the condition of both the terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems within the Park as part of the master planning process.</p> <p>If not then I would like the FCPA to explain the reason an environmental baseline study is not necessary.</p> <p>I would also appreciate an explanation as to the reason a Natural Resource Management Plan has not been drafted in accordance with the recommendations in both the Lake Accotink General Management Plan approved by the FCPA Director well over two decades ago--as well as the FCPA NRMP adopted by the PAB in January 2014.</p> <p>Your prompt response answering these questions will be greatly appreciated.</p>

3/21/2016 Parkmail

Thanks for all you do for our excellent park system in Fairfax. I have an 'ask' that I would like to put forward. It would be wonderful to have bicycle parking facilities at Wakefield Park, specifically when you enter the park by the softball fields. Covered bike parking would also be nice there.

Here are the specific reasons why I'm asking for this:

- My wife and I have started biking to the park to do our weekly walks around the lake. There isn't any good bike parking there and we must ride all the way to the Audrey Moore rec center.
- My wife started a job in Tysons Corner and would like to take the 495 bus to work from the bus stop there on Braddock Road at the entrance to Wakefield. She would like to ride her bike to the park from our home along Ravensworth and leave her bike there while she rides the bus to work, then ride back home after returning on the bus. This would mean one fewer car on the roads.

Bike parking is also needed at the marina at Lake Accotink.

Are there currently any plans to put more bike parking in these locations?

3/28/2016 Parkmail

I was able to attend the initial Public Information Meeting regarding the Lake Accotink Park Master Plan Revision.

Like so many others in the area, I consider Lake Accotink "my park." My husband and I have lived less than one mile from the park for over 30 years. Lake Accotink provides a welcome respite from the frantic pace of Northern Virginia. It is a place for quiet reflection, being in nature, exercise and so much more.

In thinking of a future Master Plan, I believe the natural areas, trails and waterways should be kept and protected. If additional modifications must be made, they should be kept in the already developed areas. Protect the wildlife, trails and woods for the future. Keeping the developed, commercial area of the park the location for boats, events, mini-golf, parking and the like. I strongly disagree with putting any form of a dog park at this park.

As you know, Lake Accotink is home to numerous wildlife, water fowl and other birds – to include Bald Eagles. The Park trails and woodlands should stay naturalized. Above all, there is a great need for staffing and monitoring of the Park – it is desperately understaff/manned.

One side of Lake Accotink (the parking/carousel/vending area) should be treated as the event center. Preserving this park for people to walk, nature watch, run/bike ride responsibly and enjoy. Treating the undeveloped areas as a true Park/Wildlife refuge.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback. I look forward to future meetings and discussions.

5/16/2016

**LAKE SUSTAINABILITY WORKSHOP**

5/16/2016 Twitter

request for bike racks in the park

5/16/2016 Parkmail

Here was Group 8's input/observations:

- We would like to hear about Lessons Learned from other Lake Sustainability efforts within Fairfax, Commonwealth of Virginia or Lakes nationwide to have an understanding on expected/un-expected impacts.
- Need some, even limited analysis on wildlife impacts to form any sort of opinion on Options A-E; Our questions were what is the impact to the Eagles that we assume need fish or other wildlife; or will mosquitoes increase dramatically with Option D or E.
- For Options A, B, and C that require Dredging; use the Trains to help in the removal of the dredged material; Or can you simply pump it onto the areas of the land that are full of invasive plant species, realize it will also harm/kill good plant species so return on investment will have to be evaluated.
- Option D, we did not like this option.
- Option E, interesting idea that offered boating and wetlands as well as retaining hiking and biking trails; if you had to dredge parts of the lake, this material could be used to form the barrier between the Lake and the Stream..

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5/17/2016 Parkmail

Submitted Design solution;

Move the lake spillway to the entrance of Accotink Creek from the Dam site.

This would be accomplished by Installing a dual water weir at lake level where creek enters lake.. One weir would provide water to fill and keep lake full from evaporation ; plus in event of rain on lake it would allow reverse flow out of lake.

The other weir [ at same level ] would be connecter to a lake by-pass to below Dam. this would be an open lined designed near lake level and catch addition run off from western shore lie between Accotink Creek and Dam. The by-pas would discharge down stream from dam.

In this design most of the steady state silt would by pass lake.

At time of sever flooding the water would split between by-pass and over existing lake spillway. In long run minimum silt to lake.

In addition the by-pass could be used to "trickle -down" existing silt with from a slow low flow dredging facility permanently at lake. [ This is the same technique that the reactor water from the Three mile island disaster was disposed of ].

PS; Gayle, if this is not clear / let me know and I am willing to sit with you or other persons on this subject to dicuss.

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6/24/2016 EMAIL

Gayle, Please consider this request from the Friends of Accotink Creek:

Lake Accotink Park Master Plan – Environmental Baseline Study

The Friends of Accotink Creek express concern that the FCPA will proceed with the Lake Accotink Park Master Plan without a thorough science based study and evaluation of the ecological condition of the Park.

We note:

- The General Management Plan for Lake Accotink Park states the first purpose of Lake Accotink Park is to preserve, protect, and restore natural resources--both terrestrial and aquatic.
- The Lake Accotink Park Master Plan website omits reference to the FCPA's Natural Resource Management Plan.
- Although the Fairfax County Comprehensive Plan\*, the FCPA Natural Resource Management Plan, and the General Management Plan for Lake Accotink Park indicate the Park should be managed to protect native ecosystems, the FCPA has not developed a Natural Resource Management Plan for the Park.

Preservation of the treasured natural resources of Lake Accotink Park (and parks in general) is an imperative to achieving Fairfax County's environmental vision and responsibility. The Friends of Accotink Creek request the FCPA to complete an Environmental Baseline Study as a prerequisite to Master Plan revision.

\* Fairfax County Comprehensive Plan 2013 Edition, Area 1, Annandale Planning District, Amended through 4-29-2014, A6-Accotink Community Planning Sector, Page 134, Parks and Recreation Recommendations Sector A6, Park Classification identifying Lake Accotink Park as a Natural Resource Park

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6/24/2016 EMAIL

Gayle, Some comments from the Friends of Accotink Creek:

Lake Accotink Park Master Plan – Lake Sustainability

Here lies the quandary for those who must ponder the future of Lake Accotink:

- Everyone wants the esthetic, recreational, and sediment-collecting benefits of the lake.
- Everyone wants the benefits of wetlands habitat.
- Everyone wants the aquatic wildlife benefits of a free flowing stream.
- No one wants the responsibility of maintaining the dam.
- No one wants the cost and complications of dredging.

The Friends of Accotink Creek cannot easily resolve this quandary, but we do offer some thoughts:

- Decisions must consider the impact on freshwater mussels below the dam. This sole surviving population in Accotink Creek seems dependent upon the dam, as described in the recent biological survey found here: [http://www.accotink.org/2015/AccotinkCreekMusselSurvey\\_20160316.pdf](http://www.accotink.org/2015/AccotinkCreekMusselSurvey_20160316.pdf)
  - Option A, continued periodic dredging, is an obvious financial and logistical burden, does not reconnect the stream, and begs the question of how long before maintenance of the dam itself becomes unfeasible. Yet, the sediment capture benefit is great.
  - Option B, installation of a forebay with annual dredging, would require construction of a permanent truck road through wooded areas, inconsistent with the natural resource stewardship mission of the Park.
  - Option C, installation of steel “beaver dams” upstream would offer little lasting benefit while fragmenting the stream habitat and filling the Park’s environment with what will become piles of man-made junk. However we urge any and all measures that would encourage real beaver dams built by real beavers (or possibly man-made equivalents of natural materials).
  - Between options D & E, maintaining a smaller lake, as in E, seems the more imaginative and appealing choice. Even a smaller lake will act as a big lure for those not already focused on nature.
  - Option F - Evaluate the Friends of Accotink Creek alternative hybrid proposal combining benefits of a free-flowing stream, wetlands, and flood control outlined here: <http://www.accotink.org/2016/LakeAccotinkProposal2016.pdf>
  - The lake is already a focal point for nature observation, where a boardwalk through enhanced wetlands could be an alternative to other destructive forms of recreation. During the Master Plan meeting there were many comparisons by citizens to the Huntley Meadows wetland boardwalk.
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- Hydro/wind/solar projects – Assuming the dam is retained, why not consider making it a showcase of small-scale hydro power, using available off-the shelf technology? Abundant breezes across the lake also invite similar wind generation. Solar could fit in, also.

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8/21/2016 a email

I understand that you are the FCPA project manager for the Lake Accotink restoration project near Braddock Road and I-495.

I am a resident of the Ravensworth Farm neighborhood. I understand that you held a public consultation meeting about 2 months ago. Unfortunately, I could not attend.

Like many residents of my neighborhood, I also enjoy Lake Accotink and would like to see it revived and restored.

I understand that there are several options being considered and I would like to voice my support for the option to dredge the lake and deepen it.

Given the runoff entering the lake is stormwater runoff from I-495 and other neighborhoods, it contains sediment as well as contaminants. From talking with Lake Accotink FCPA staff during the last dredging operation I understand that a major concern is the high cost of disposing of the dredging material as it contains contaminants from I-495 - possibility asbestos. I would like to voice my support for keeping the dredging material within the park so that it does not have to be treated. At the same time, the accumulation of sediment in the lake has to be slowed and sediment forebays are needed.

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8/21/2016 b [Link to attached graphic](#)

Please find attached a concept plan figure attached to this email. The area proposed for the depositon of dredging material takes into account the following initial estimate computations:

- Assuming 23 ft of sediment is removed, the volume of sediment removed will be approx.  $3,770,140 \text{ ft}^2 * 23 \text{ ft} = 86,713,220 \text{ ft}^3$ .
- For initial estimation purposes, assume that the sediment is placed in a pile approx. 63 feet high. Approximating the pile as a pyramid we would need a pyramid 1,383 ft<sup>2</sup> in base area - please see footprint on attached figure. (Volume of pyramid,  $V = \text{Base} * \text{Height} / 3$ , Base = 1,383.2 ft<sup>2</sup>, Height = 63 ft,  $V = 86,713,220 \text{ ft}^3$ ).

I am willing to discuss this with you if you like.

Thank you for taking this information into consideration.

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9/23/2016	Parkmail	Burke Lake - 35 ft deep- clearer water- strong fish populations -is dramatically different because it isn't a repository for runoff water- and the state owns the lake- people get this- Accotink Lake is great to walk around- to see the birds, some small time fishing- moving the pontoon boat to Burke(where it is popular) should be seen as an omen, a sign that boat lake recreation, financed by the county, should end/shift- to Burke. Keep the lake healthy, attractive//
9/23/2016	Parkmail	Thanks for sharing. It appears keeping the lake is costing Fairfax 1m a year or \$4 for each of the 250K visitors that drives to the park. I would not be surprised if there were 1m visits per year to the lake. I probably bike or run around the lake 10 times each year and I always enter from wakefield park or the surrounding neighborhoods. Long story short in my opinion is that the cost of dredging is not that unreasonable given the number of visitors. My opinion aside, I do think the dredging challenges is worth a mention in the Truro Trails to remind our community of the positive impact that the stream restoration has on Lake Accotink.
10/6/2016	Parkmail	<p>I am writing today to voice my concern of the process for the master plan community discussions. I have attended 2 of these meetings so far, both on the western side of the park. I live and work on the eastern side of Lake Accotink Park. There are many communities who use this park. I am wondering why there are not meetings being held and open to the community on the east side of the park? We are a diverse community with many ideas on it's use and future, and our many voices need to be heard.</p> <p>Is FCPA planning on conducting community input sessions from the communities on the east side of Lake Accotink Park in the 22150 zip code?</p> <p>Please advise, I will continue to promote the community meetings as it's important for all of us that use and love the park, to have a say in it's future. But I do request that efforts are made to include ALL the communities that surround the park on all sides.</p>
10/7/2016	Parkmail	<p>There is a tremendous need for kids to have a place to be outdoors and active. TrailsforYouth works with hundreds of kids from several schools that surround Lake Accotink. We provide outdoor recreation opportunities that mentors the kids on healthy lifestyles, environmental stewardship and engaging in the outdoors safely. We are currently working with FCPA to implement a bicycle pump track at Brookfield Park. Many years ago, when we were seeking a partner park for a bicycle pump track originally thought of LAP but was told a Master Plan revision was not being done. Well here we are.</p> <p>I highly recommend using the Ravenel Field space to construct a bicycle pump track that kids from all the surrounding communities could use to enjoy honing their bike skills, improving bike skills and getting many hours of much needed exercise. Bicycle Pump Tracks are hugely popular, require minimal upkeep/maintenance and provide hours of exercise to kids of all ages and abilities. They appeal to a wide range of kids (and adults).</p> <p>TrailsforYouth.Org would welcome the opportunity to work with FCPA to construct and maintain a bicycle pump track particularly at Ravenel or McLaren Sgt. fields.</p>
10/10/2016	Parkmail	<p>As requested, here are a few suggestions for improving the park trail. I have been running on the trail at least three days a week since 1985.</p> <p>Improve/pave the Lake Accotink trail within 100 yards each way of the intersection of the Carrleigh Parkway Trail and the Lake Accotink Trail. The Lake Accotink trail in that area is very rough - many rocks, roots and erosion problems. This area is now the worst part of the whole lake trail. I have fallen two or three times in that area. It badly needs smoothing and paving.</p> <p>The planned bridge at the Lake dam spillway also needs to be completed.</p> <p>And an additional portajohn or two scattered around the trail would be helpful.</p> <p>Thank you again for the chance to comment! Overall the trail is much better now than three years ago. Thank you for your fine efforts to upgrade the trail!</p>

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11/26/2016 Parkmail

I am a regular (5+ day/week) user of the trails at Lake Accotink. I've been unable to attend the meetings about the master plan revision – the one on 12/5 is also in conflict with 2 other things I must attend, and so I would like to offer some comments via email.

I've lived in North Springfield since 1998. We moved from the City of Alexandria to Heming Avenue – just a few houses from the park entrance – when our children were 4 and 2. The park with its beautiful lake, the playground, trails, and merry-go-round were all BIG factors in our decision to purchase. When we acquired a dog in 1999, she had so much energy that I started running again, and the loop around Lake Accotink became a regular favorite. It's about 4.25 miles from my house, around the lake and back – a perfect distance for a run or a long walk.

Over the years I have come to feel Lake Accotink is a place where “the veil is thin” – it is a special, special little spot of near-heaven in the midst of suburban blight. The beauty of the light on the water is incomparable. There are places along the path where you feel like you are far from everything and that brings a kind of peace you cannot find many other places in our busy area. Being able to run across a variety of wild-life is both entertaining and meaningful to people of all ages.

On October 8, 2015, our only son Mark was tragically killed at Va Tech after a car hit him as he rode his bike to classes. In the days, weeks and months that have followed, being able to get out of my house and walk around the lake has been deeply healing to me as we've struggled with this horrendous loss. God has walked with me along those familiar paths.

I recognize the challenges of keeping the lake usable and the upkeep necessary as facilities age (all while it seems like less and less money is available). I've supported every bond measure for our parks. I would ask that you do whatever it takes to keep it the way it is – addressing the silt production upstream of the lake would seem to make the most sense. It would not be the same without the water.

As for the trails themselves: I understand the need to pave over portions that tend to be washed out in storms; however, I do not feel the entire path should be paved. Walking on natural surfaces like dirt is good for feet, legs and bodies!

Thank you for your time, your efforts and your dedication.

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11/28/2016 Parkmail

Dear Park Officers, I'm writing to propose a project to build a bird-watch trail and a bird blind for bird photography at Lake Accotink Park. I live near Lake Accotink Park and really enjoy going to the park to take bird pictures. Lake Accotink attracts a lot of birds because of its wide variety of water body, bushes, grasses, and trees. A hidden bird-watch trail and a permanent bird blind will make the park even more unique and attractive to people who love nature, animals, and art.

If such an idea is acceptable, I would like to volunteer to lead such a project, to donate my money and to seek help and contribution from the bird-watch and bird photography groups to support such a project, and to work with the Park Authority and staff from the site selection, design, construction, through maintenance stages to assure such a trail and blind are built properly and maintained for good use.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposal. My contact information is: Haiping Luo, hpluo@yahoo.com, 202-709-5218

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12/5/2016 a Parkmail

First, congratulations on the new trail access by the tot lot in Danbury Forest. I know that creating this easement with Danbury Forest took a lot of time and paperwork, but the result is excellent

**A Coherent Trails Plan**

It is time to create a coherent trails plan – and trail marking plan -- for Lake Accotink Park. (Scotts Run Park has recently done this.) This plan should reflect people’s needs as they actually use the trails.

I would suggest that this plan include:

1. The Cross County Trail segment through Lake Accotink Park. This is already (sparsely) marked.
2. A Lake Accotink Loop Trail. (This includes a section of the Cross-County Trail.)
3. Feeder trails leading out to various trail access points in the neighborhoods (to the Carrleigh Parkway access, to Rolling Road, to Ravensworth Farms, etc.).

Many people walk the loop trail around the lake. We see them every day at the end of our street.

The trail plan should include a designated Accotink Lake Loop Trail. It should be clearly marked around the lake.

This trail includes sidewalk which is owned by the Virginia Department of Transportation. (But so does the Cross-County Trail.) This may offer a bureaucratic challenge, but I’m sure you can make it happen. There is particular need for trail indicators in this section.

12/5/2016 b Parkmail

The Park Authority should provide clear signage where the trail continues onto public sidewalks in Danbury Forest. People often emerge from the woods and ask “Where is the trail?”. In the interim, Danbury Forest residents have posted signs at each end where the trail emerges from the woods.

**Clear Signage**

Lake Accotink Park should have clear signage designating trails, and indicating distances.

Each trail intersection should have a clear sign with directions and distances. (And signs on the Accotink Loop Trail should indicate the distance to the marina in each direction.)

For example, the T-intersection east of the bridge could have the following signs (distances are estimates for illustration only):

Cross-County Trail

- ☒ Braddock Road 0.4 mile
- ☒ Wakefield Park 1.1 mile
- ☒ Potomac River 25.5 miles
- ☒ Accotink Marina 1.9 miles ☒
- ☒ Occoquan Creek 16.2 miles ☒

Accotink Loop Trail

- ☒ Accotink Marina 1.9 miles ☒
- ☒ Accotink Marina 1.8 miles

12/5/2016 c Parkmail

Signs about the high-water flooding when it rains should be posted where the trail user makes a choice of trails (for example, not just south of Braddock Road, but at the T intersection).

Large, clear trail maps should be posted in each of the information kiosks around the lake.

Clear and consistent trail markers or blazes should also be adopted. There are currently remnants of at least three systems of trail markers.

I note also that the park activity information in the kiosks around the park is inconsistent, and is often not current.

**Non-designated Trails**

The park has a network of non-designated trails, especially in the woods on the west side of the park.

The park staff should be vigilant that no new “rogue” trails are created which would further fragment the natural forest habitat.

**Hazards**

Repeated budget cuts have taken a serious toll on maintenance of trails.

Rogue bike trails on steep slopes by the trail, which are a safety hazard, and which cause damaging erosion to slopes, are slow to be closed off.

Fallen limbs across the trail are removed promptly, but a fallen tree with massive poison ivy vines has been encroaching on the trail for months.

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12/5/2016 Parkmail

Thank you for the invitation to attend the Trails Workshop. Unfortunately I will not be able to attend, but I do have a few comments that I submit for your consideration. My family has lived on Carrleigh Parkway in Springfield for 31 years and as a lifelong runner, I have used the Accotink Trail at least three times a week during that time. First, I commend you on the recent improvements to the trail - including the additional paving in the valley area and the paving of the Kings Park playground hill. They have made a significant positive difference - especially when the trail is wet. Thank you! Second, I recommend that you next pave the trail for the first 100 yards in each direction where it intersects with the trail coming down from Carrleigh Parkway. The Accotink Trail in this area is very eroded with rocks and roots exposed that make the trail dangerous. I have tripped and fallen a number of times in this area. I consider it the most dangerous portion of the whole trail around the lake. Third, I recommend that a couple of portajohns be strategically placed around the trail. Fourth, I recommend that the discussed and planned bridge across the dam spillway area be completed. The flooding in this area continues to be the weak link in the whole trail experience.

Again, thank you very much for the opportunity to comment and for your continued fine efforts to improve the Accotink Trail!

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12/13/2016 email

I wanted to follow up on our brief meeting at the Accotink Trails meeting the other week in regards to my interest in improving accessibility to our water parks for seniors and people with disabilities. Specifically, I wanted to suggest that the Park Authority look into the possibility of installing docks that are designed to allow people to easily access the water with kayaks or canoes. Here is one example of what I am suggesting:  
<http://ezdockusa.com/products/ez-dock-products/ez-launch-kayak-and-canoe/>

I have used something like this at the Bladensburg Waterfront park in MD and it works great. [http://outdoors.pgparcs.com/Sites/Bladensburg\\_Waterfront\\_Park.htm](http://outdoors.pgparcs.com/Sites/Bladensburg_Waterfront_Park.htm)

A representative of the Park Authority made a presentation at a recent Commission on Aging meeting and showed data from your community needs assessment. If I understood the findings correctly, they seem to have shown that "boating/fishing/camping" was the 4th most desired program in the 50-69 age group and the 10th most desired need in the 70 and older group. These data suggest that there could be interest in accessible launch ramps by this age group. I do not know the extent to which people with various disabilities would want to take advantage of such ramps. But if Maryland Parks found a need for these ramps, I would think the same need would exist in Fairfax.

At the meeting you suggested contacting Chris Goldbecker. Would you please send me his email address as well as any other suggestions for how I can best advocate for the accessible boat ramp.

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1/17/2017 Parkmail

Hello FCPS,

I take from the latest email release that the you are awaiting the receipt of the VDEQ report, after which time you will release a Draft Master Plan for public input. I would like to better understand how the input at the public meetings is being interpreted in the draft plan.

I feel like even before the VDEQ report is in hand, it would be possible for FCPS to release, via the project webpage, the results of public usage questionnaires and how input that is being interpreted into general goals and priorities for Accotink park. This information would provide an integral step between public input to the process and draft master plan. It would also clarify how FCPS came to the conclusions it used to guide the draft master plan.

I hope you will consider my input.

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1/17/2017	Parkmail	I use Lake Accotink to hike around the lake. There are 2 issues I wish to raise assuming the Lake is to be preserved. The first is a bridge across the dam so when there is precipitation you can cross any time. Second, the section of the hike around the lake that takes a hiker past a townhouse community, then an elementary school then a second townhouse community. I realize that to do so means an elevated walkway behind these locations such as exists in other parks due to the soggy ground and maybe excavation of hillsides at certain points but that has been done in portions of the trail around Lake Mercer and the SouthRun trail section in Springfield and it works well.
2/8/2017	Parkmail	As you develop the Master Plan for Lake Accotink, I would ask that installing exercise equipment like was done last year at Royal Lake Park be incorporated. Outdoor experiences such as exercise is certainly a part of the Park Authority's long term plan (or should be). Funding needs to be identified; for comparison purposes, the Royal Lake project cost about \$45K, including all equipment, materials, and installation for 14 stations. Burke Lake Park has exercise equipment very similar to what Royal Lake has and believe Accotink would benefit as well.  I was the neighborhood volunteer for the Royal Lake effort. Should you have any questions on equipment types, placement, and selection please let me know.
4/7/2017	Parkmail	This message is to inform you of an important new resource that may be very useful in supporting decisions for the Lake Accotink Park Master Plan. It is a great new website for dogs and their owners looking for dog parks. It also will provide benefit to those who may be trying to get a dog park established near their home. Lake Accotink has traditionally been a very dog-friendly venue and adding an Off Leash Dog Area would become a great community asset.  Mr. Steve Beste, a resident of Fairfax County, Virginia worked on this project to develop a website about dog parks that you can see at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="http://arcg.is/2naRLEw">http://arcg.is/2naRLEw</a></li> </ul> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. For dog owners, it maps where all the Northern Virginia dog parks are, with links to features, directions, Yelp reviews, and pictures.</li> <li>2. It maps where the dogs are, based on dog license data that was collected from the 6 local jurisdictions that license dogs. This has never been done before.</li> <li>3. For people planning new dog parks, it shows the possible land parcels that meet County requirements for dog park locations (or, as the Fairfax County rules call them on Off Leash Dog Areas (OLDAs).)</li> </ol> A chance encounter spurred Mr. Beste's interest in geographical information systems (GIS). He was so interested in fact that he enrolled at George Mason University, the local state college. Data? Maps? Computers? Theory and hands-on work with the cartographic software? He was definitely into the possibilities!  Interestingly, the term paper for the course was to be not a paper at all, but a research question that can be answered geographically. Steve came up with his question: Where are the best locations for future dog parks in Fairfax County given the dog population and suitable park land? What put it in his mind was all those afternoons taking his daughter's dog, Kiva, to the local dog park in Arlington. It was the highlight of his day - and a pleasure for Steve, too. Let's get more dog parks!  The county provided a spreadsheet with dog licenses information, including street address. Following data cleanup, geolocation of addresses (finding their latitude and longitude for mapping) Mr. Beste had developed a tool that people can use to see where the dogs are, for the first time, really.  The end of the project was a printed map, a PowerPoint presentation, and a 5-minute video. That was fine for the professor, but useless for promoting dog parks in the county. For that, Steve has placed the map online and made it interactive. So, taking the project beyond the classroom he has included the other jurisdictions that license dogs. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Again, the web address is <a href="http://arcg.is/2naRLEw">http://arcg.is/2naRLEw</a></li> </ul> I encourage you to promote this information at your website as a benefit to the many dogs and their owners throughout the region. For more information, contact Steve Beste at <a href="mailto:shbeste@gmail.com">shbeste@gmail.com</a>
<b>10/27/2017 FACILITIES AND PROGRAMMING WORKSHOP</b>		
1/7/2018	email	I am interested in the Accotink Master Plan but I can't make the meeting. Is there a way to submit comments without attending?
<b>1/22/2018 LAKE MANAGEMENT AND DESIGN MEETING</b>		
1/24/2018	Parkmail	I spent my childhood in that park! I frequent it now with my son and family. Please don't fill in the lake and ruin this beautiful park!
1/24/2018	Parkmail	Lake Accotink was one of the reasons we moved to this neighborhood, we go there every week when it's warm. It will lower property values AND make our neighborhood less livable. Please keep the lake! Thanks!
1/24/2018	Parkmail	Let's keep the lake! No fill in.
1/24/2018	email	Please save this wonderful park! It is used by so many individuals and wildlife please please save.
1/24/2018	email	I'm writing as a county resident with 30+ years of use at Lake Accotink. I have had wonderful experiences at Lake Accotink since childhood and have created similar ones for my children as well. I know hundreds of residents throughout the Springfield area that enjoy the lake and the facilities it provides. The proximity of the lake to our current home was one of the factors that led to the purchase of it. I know park budgets are usually the first to get cut or reduced but please try your best to maintain this county gem.

1/24/2018	Parkmail	I wanted to put in my comment on Lake Accotink. I am very concerned at mention of turning the lake into a stream. It is a great asset to the community as a lake, and should be kept that way. We should continue dredging to keep the lake intact. It would be a huge loss to the community to lose the lake as is.
1/25/2018	Parkmail	<p>After reading the Lake Accotink Park Sustainability Plan, I felt compelled to write. I live in Danbury Forest, on the west side of the park. I feel extremely fortunate to have such a beautiful park so accessible to me. I've read about the sediment issues with the lake and the possible options, and I feel the most important point is to plan to keep the lake, in the future, as close to the gem we have now. From what I've read, that could be through continued dredging, installing an in lake forebay, or installing beaver dams. Reducing the size of the lake or going with the single channel with reclaimed land are not acceptable options.</p> <p>Lake Accotink is home to a wide variety of animal and bird species. Changing the structure of the lake and park could hurt those species' chances of survival or drive them out of our park permanently. We have active nesting eagles in the park. If there is no lake, where would they hunt?</p> <p>Nearby residents also rely on the lake...perhaps not for survival, but for enjoyment and a connection to nature, something that is getting harder and harder to find in overcrowded Northern Virginia.</p> <p>We residents of West and North Springfield (and beyond) love and cherish our lake. Please choose an option that addresses the sediment issue yet leaves our beloved lake intact.</p>
1/25/2018	Parkmail	Hello, I was in attendance yesterday for Gayle Hooper's presentation. It was very informative. I was wondering if I could get sent a copy of the slides that she used so that I could review the information a little bit more. Particularly, I was interested in the slide that showed the football field and how much sediment was accumulated in the lake over a certain period of time.
1/25/2018	Parkmail	<p>My name is Madison Beneux and I may be only 17 now, but will be 18 in August and voting in both the primaries in June, and the election in November. I have grown up in Northern Virginia and love the outdoors. Growing up, my mother would often take my siblings and I to Lake Accotink. We would play in the sand, learn to skip rocks, admire the beautiful sunset on the lake, and watch the birds that make the lake a part of their home. About 4 years ago, my sister graduated from high school and to celebrate we all went out on the paddle boats. 2 and a half years ago we went on the paddle boats with an extremely close family friend. We had so much fun and made so many happy memories. Sadly, half a year later he passed away, but whenever I go to Lake Accotink I think of those beautiful moments on the lake. One day, if I have children, I hope to be able to share the beauty, happiness, and calmness of Lake Accotink with them. However, these memories of mine, and all my hopes and dreams for the future of Lake Accotink are at stake. I understand that it is expensive to maintain Lake Accotink, but it is expensive to maintain any lake. Lake Accotink may have its fair share of problems, but those who live by Lake Accotink love it, even with the flaws. There are other solutions to better maintain the lake, like stricter litter regulation and moderation of the streams. There is the potential of hiring teens and young adults to help maintain the streams that flow into Lake Accotink, which then pollute the lake. This creates new jobs that help teens and young adults gain more experience, and maintains the lake.</p> <p>Please, residents of Fairfax County, preserve Lake Accotink. Find an alternative, let it remain.</p>
1/26/2018	Parkmail	<p>My name is Francisco Cueto and I live on Ravenel Lane. I have been informed about a proposal to drain Lake Accotink and return it to a creek. I believe this would be a huge mistake. One of the draws that brought me to this neighborhood was the beauty of the lake and the walk around it. I believe housing values would drop as a result. Also, we will lose events like the Cardboard Boat Regata. This yearly tradition at the lake brings the community together and creates a great team building exercise for young and old alike.</p> <p>I think losing the lake would destroy the character and charm of the neighborhood and I strongly oppose it. I'm happy to consider an alternative course of action.</p>
1/26/2018	Parkmail	My house backs to the creek that empties into the lake. It is a short walk to the marina for us. One of the main reasons we bought this house was to be close to the lake. We walk around the lake paths every day, my children play at the lake a few times a week and we kayak a few times a month. Not to mention the countless events we attend at the lake. The loss of this resource would be devastating to my family.
1/26/2018	Parkmail	<p>As a homeowner in North Springfield it is distressing and sad to hear that the county is considering "reclaiming" this lake and surrounding land. It's not only a historic area, but a nature preserve, park, gathering place for the Arts and Rec Camps, it benefits Home prices (and the county tax base as a result) and downstream water maintenance. We all know that this costs money to maintain but Friends of Accotink is an active group AND it would be short sighted to think that the price down the road (well before the next 15-year dredging) would Cost the county in stream maintenance (which is sorely lacking in this area- so it will come eventually) and lost revenue from park participation and in real estate appeal far more than the cost of current maintenance. Both Ravensworth and North Springfield have actively engaged civic associations that will stand up for major upheavals to their home and neighborhoods.</p> <p>So many people in this community enjoy this lake and surrounding area it is shocking to think you would destroy the benefits and appeal.</p> <p>Please consider the impact beyond dollars. Letters will be going out to all Representatives, the NVAR and the Chesapeake Bay preservation groups as well.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration for keeping the lake.</p>

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1/28/2018	Parkmail	<p>Thank you for the informational meeting on Monday, January 22, 2018. I have lived in Danbury Forest for 28 years. I bought my home because of the lake and the trails. I walk around the lake daily. I cherish my time in the woods and the friends that I meet along the way.</p> <p>I have been thinking about the conversations I have had at the meeting and throughout the week. Here are some of my thoughts and questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. I do not want to lose the lake. If we lose the lake, there will be no chance of one being replaced in the future. The sacrifices we have to make to save the lake are worth it. Other's did the same for us so we can enjoy it now. I don't want future generations to miss out on our slice of paradise.</li><li>2. Can the sediment be used for eroding areas around the lake instead of trucking it out of the park? The area around the Danbury Forest townhouses shows many signs of erosion. There is also the flood plane near mile marker 1 that could be filled in and still be considered a flood plane. There are areas off of the main trail that could easily be filled in with the sediment.</li><li>3. I understand the Ravensorth community is concerned about the trucking and construction vehicles. I was told at the meeting that the train tracks could not be used, but am now being told that they could be considered. What about Danbury Forest Drive? The Rolling Road entrance to the trail? Are any of these usable roadways? Maybe more than one entrance could be used so it is not a burden on one community?</li><li>4. When will your website have the information from Monday's meeting? I voted at the meeting and am wondering how others can vote. I don't see anything on the website, but could be missing it.</li></ol> <p>Thank you very much for your time and consideration.</p>
1/28/2018	Parkmail	<p>In reviewing the 2017 Lake Accotink Sustainability Plan, option B is preferred. While option F allow for pollutant credit, it makes the lake smaller and still needs to incorporate portions of all the other options for functionality so it makes no sense to reduce the size and employ all other options in the process when dredging is a viable solution and allows full use for all.</p> <p>Thanks for taking our input into consideration.</p>
1/28/2018	Parkmail	<p>I have lived in the Danbury Forest community for over 40 years. One of the features of this community is that we have Lake Accotink and a trail that goes completely around the lake.</p> <p>This trail is used for biking, walking, and breathing clean air.</p> <p>In this hurry-up world in which we live, it is so refreshing to get away from all the noise and stress of modern day living. That is what the lake provides: a chance to refresh our internal batteries by spending some time in the natural world.</p> <p>We need to look ahead into the future and ask: what are we leaving for our children and grand children. If we don't protect what we already have; then, the day may come when we will need to go to a museum to see a tree, or to hear the song of a bird, or listen to the croaking of a frog.</p> <p>How sad that would be.</p> <p>Please help us keep our Lake Accotink in its present, natural state.</p>
1/28/2018	Parkmail	<p>I am a resident of Danbury Forest, a community situated on the NW border of Lake Accotink Park. I have reviewed the list of options for the park as detailed in the Lake Accotink Sustainability Plan dated 31 May 2017. As I am not an expert in land use or storm-water management I do not pretend to fully understand the impacts of all the options provided, my only input is that I would oppose the implementation of option E, the complete removal of the dam. Lake Accotink is an integral part of the park and the greater neighboring community, losing such an asset would rob the community of diverse recreational and exercise options available today. Thank you for your time.</p>
1/28/2018	Parkmail	<p>To whom it may concern; I'm a resident of Ravensworth Farm Community (5643 Inverchapel Road) and would like to state that the Lake has provided my family and myself a place to relax and enjoy the boating and fishing that the lake provides and it would be terrible if the lake was not preserved as it has been for so many years. Lake Accotink was what attracted me to this area of Fairfax County. There is nothing more relaxing and mentally beneficial as fishing off the banks of the lake, enjoying the environment that the lake provides. Please find a manner to sustain the lake so that many of us can continue to enjoy the pleasures that the lake provides.</p>

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1/28/2018 Parkmail

Thank you for the informational meeting on Monday, January 22, 2018. I have lived in Danbury Forest for 28 years. I bought my home because of the lake and the trails. I walk around the lake daily. I cherish my time in the woods and the friends that I meet along the way.

I have been thinking about the conversations I have had at the meeting and throughout the week. Here are some of my thoughts and questions:

1. I do not want to lose the lake. If we lose the lake, there will be no chance of one being replaced in the future. The sacrifices we have to make to save the lake are worth it. Other's did the same for us so we can enjoy it now. I don't want future generations to miss out on our slice of paradise.

2. Can the sediment be used for eroding areas around the lake instead of trucking it out of the park? The area around the Danbury Forest townhouses shows many signs of erosion. There is also the flood plane near mile marker 1 that could be filled in and still be considered a flood plane. There are areas off of the main trail that could easily be filled in with the sediment.

3. I understand the Ravensorth community is concerned about the trucking and construction vehicles. I was told at the meeting that the train tracks could not be used, but am now being told that they could be considered. What about Danbury Forest Drive? The Rolling Road entrance to the trail? Are any of these usable roadways? Maybe more than one entrance could be used so it is not a burden on one community?

4. When will your website have the information from Monday's meeting? I voted at the meeting and am wondering how others can vote. I don't see anything on the website, but could be missing it.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

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1/29/2018 Parkmail

It has just come to my attention that there are plans to do away with Lake Accotink as it currently exists in favor of meeting requirements for a pollution credit for Fairfax County.

I'm in in opposition to this move. The lake provides a recreational destination and is the only walkable nature trail in West Springfield in the Cardinal Forest area. I have many neighbors that use the trails around the lake on a regular basis and it was a big draw for them to move into the neighborhood. I use the trails on occasion myself and appreciate that there is a destination I can walk to without getting in my car.

I vote for option B, to continue to maintain the lake as is, dredging as necessary. There is much more to life than "pollution credits" which do little to improve the daily life of anyone and sure don't provide the stress relief that walking in nature does. For the mental and physical health of country residents, the lake should stay.

Thank you,

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1/29/2018 Parkmail

My husband and I are strongly in favor of keeping Lake Accotink the way it is. We are in favor of dredging every 15 years to maintain the lake in its current form. We overwhelmingly support option B. Our family has enjoyed the use of the Lake as well as its many walking and biking paths for the past 25 years.

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1/29/2018 Parkmail

Hi,

I was unable to make the meeting Monday Jan. 22, 2018, but I would like to vote on the various options for sustaining Lake Accotink. Where online may I cast my vote, and voice my opinion? I am having trouble finding the right page!! Thank you, Marynelle Losin

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1/29/2018	Parkmail	<p>Hi, my name is Greg Beard. I live in Springfield and have just learned that there is a discussion regarding the future of this Lake. I understand the discussion to be about the lakes practical uses of leisure vs the economic and financial costs of keeping it safe from turning into mud using dredging. I understand that a test was done that concluded that it appears the Lake may need dredging once every 15 years if I heard correctly.</p> <p>For my 2 cents, I wish the Lake would stay as I believe that eliminating the Lake would keep our children and future generations from having access to a valued resource of education and leisure. I have taken my kids around the lake in canoe's and they have learned about the environment and the wildlife that depend on it like: Eagles, turtles, Cranes etc. if not for this Lake, where else could we take our younger generation to learn these values life long lessons? Burke lake, yes, but I worry that 10,15,20 years down the road maybe there will arise a problem with that Lake and if it is closed for whatever reasons there would then be no park managed lakes to take our children to.</p> <p>Please consider the educational value these resources have to families that like to spend time together locally when driving out of town is not an option. I cherish the memories I have of taking my young son out on the water and now I have a young daughter who is just about old enough to share the same experiences. But now I'm worried about future younger generations access to these beautiful and natural places of value.</p> <p>Thank you for your time,</p>
1/29/2018	Parkmail	<p>I find it so amazing that this wealthy county can always find money for purchasing new park land as new subdivisions spring up out on the edges of the county but can't seem to find the money to maintain the existing parks in the older areas. I live very near Accotink Park and across the street from Brookfield Park and have lived in this house since 1976. I have watch the maintenance dwindle at both parks but still bond issues being voted on for new purchases.</p> <p>This stinks!!!! The older parks are in more densely populated areas, highly used by the residents and the maintenance has still steadily declined. All the residents in Springfield love Lake Accotink and it should be left as is with dredging every fifteen years. When new subdivisions are built, all park land acquisitions and upkeep for ten years should be the builders responsibility. No more bond issues floated for anything but maintenance of existing parks.</p> <p>Some of the parks in older areas need attendants so children don't have to fear going to them.</p> <p>LEAVE LAKE ACCOTINK ALONE!!!</p>
1/29/2018	Parkmail	<p>As a local homeowner who visits Lake Accotink, I think that option F is the perfect compromise for those concerned about the environment and those concerned with the costs and disruption of dredging. It preserves a small lake and green space with the trails that so many of us use, yet it eliminates the sediment buildup and associated cost of dredging. However since there will still be a smaller dam, the total cost of this option does not seem to include dam maintenance.</p>
1/29/2018	Parkmail	<p>I have recently been informed that there is talk of draining Lake Accotink. I am for keeping the lake as is and even adding a beaver dam. Beavers keep water ways clean. We need the lake for the wild life, the hikers to enjoy, and just overall mental health reasons. I grew up in the Minnesota plains with 10,000 lakes and I miss that around here. It is always mentally refreshing to walk the trail, see the wild life on the lake, and even try to feed the birds. When my children were growing up we would walk the trails during the summer and walk to the dam area to find turtles and ducks, etc.</p> <p>We need the lake here in such a busy, congested area of Fairfax County. I would like to take my grandsons for walks to the lake as soon as they are old even to walk the trail. We need the woods, the lake, stream, and trails for enjoyment and to get away from the busy life of Fairfax County.</p>
1/29/2018	Parkmail	<p>Don't support any plan that would drain the lake. Restore it.</p>
1/29/2018	Parkmail	<p>I would just like to give my opinion regarding possible changes to the Lake Accotink area. I would prefer that the lake be kept as is, with dredging operations needed about every 15 years. It is a great place to hike, which is what my wife and I do there, or for bikers to use. I would not like to see those options go away. Thank you.</p>
1/30/2018	Parkmail	<p>I appreciate the thoughtful, careful planning that has gone into the master plan.</p> <p>I greatly value Lake Accotink, using it every week. I hike around it, watch the eagle, and regularly canoe or kayak on it.</p> <p>But I understand that it may not be sustainable in its current form. Aside from being a reason we moved here, I still wonder how it will affect surrounding communities if it is totally removed.</p> <p>My preference, to avoid dredging too much and retain some lake, would be Option F.</p> <p>But I also see and appreciate the creation of a wetland, such as E. For example, the wetland created in Huntley Meadow, with its walkways and wonderful wildlife, are still very attractive as an option. Though it is unclear to me if that is the vision of E.</p>
1/30/2018	Parkmail	<p>I strongly support maintaining Lake Accotink in its current form. It is a source of enjoyment, pride, and value to thousands in this area. Please do not move forward with any decisions before well-publicized public input. Thank you!</p>

1/30/2018	Parkmail	<p>Please just leave the lake untouched and unspoiled by any more man made "bright" ideas.</p> <p>We're suffering through huge disruptions in my own neighborhood due to the misinformed decisions of a select few.</p> <p>This revision will be a nightmare.</p> <p>Leave the lake/park as it is...perfect.</p>
1/30/2018	Lake Management Survey	I would not be affected by these connections and don't want to answer for those who would.
1/30/2018	Lake Management Survey	Option F balances all recreational uses with a lower tax impact in the long term.
1/30/2018	Lake Management Survey	One of the reasons I moved into the neighborhood was the lake. Please do whatever it takes to keep it healthy and available for recreation and sight seeing.
1/30/2018	Lake Management Survey	The lake should remain its current size. This area is enjoyed by many residents.
1/30/2018	Lake Management Survey	My preference is to re-establish a more natural state to the park to benefit wildlife more than people. I am inclined to choose option E or F.
1/30/2018	Lake Management Survey	We love Lake Accotink Park both for it's asthetic beauty and for the wildlife it supports that we enjoy watching. It is one of the highlights of our grandchildren's visit as they have nothing like it where they live (just a regular park/playground). It would be sad if a beautiful park was lost as these types of environs are irreplaceable! Keep the Lake!!!!
1/30/2018	Lake Management Survey	We love walking around this lake and would hate to see it disappear!
1/30/2018	Lake Management Survey	Thanks for the opportunity to comment. I live in Charleston community and use the lake often. The cost to maintain as-is certainly seems expensive. Option F seems quite reasonable to maintain part of the lake we enjoy at a reasonable cost. Adding more connectivity would encourage more traffic so I don't think that is in the best interest of the community.
1/30/2018	Lake Management Survey	<p>My choice of option F is clear. It avoids the repeated expense of dredging while maintaining the valuable asset of the lake and the recreational opportunities it provides.</p> <p>My choice of not connecting the upper and lower lots is less clear, in part because it's not apparent to me how the area will be affected if option F is selected, but we've managed fine without a road connecting the two lots so I see no need to intrude on the lakeside area.</p> <p>Thank you for describing the options so well and for heeding public preferences.</p>
1/30/2018	Lake Management Survey	<p>I chose option "F" because it seems to be the only option that retains the recreational value of having a lake (and the name!) without continually fighting a losing battle against nature. It seems like the most environmentally friendly AND people friendly option, to me.</p> <p>The parking lots are a little odd, but that doesn't seem like a good enough reason to pave parkland. I would not protest an efficient plan to simplify the parking situation.</p>
1/31/2018	Lake Management Survey	The park should stay as is.
1/31/2018	Lake Management Survey	<p>The lake is a valued treasure for the Annandale and Springfield community. All times of the year we go there with our family to use the playground, fish, see the turtles, hunt for frog eggs and watch the tadpoles develop, kayak and paddleboat, hike, run on the paths and bike. We always see so many families ad individuals enjoying the same beautiful park. Losing the lake would be terrible for the community. It's a treasure to everyone in the area.</p> <p>I'm confused about the trucks for sediment removal, the last dredging utilized the existing rail lines in the industrial complex. Why wouldn't that be an option again?</p> <p>It seems to me eliminating the lake doesn't solve your run off and sedimentation problem. It just moves it around the watershed and creates new and bigger problems in areas that are harder to maintain and will be more costly in the long run. I feel like the county is trying to be penny wise but pound foolish on dealing with the real issue of erosion.</p> <p>I hate to say this, but I also can't help wonder if this was a lake in a wealthier section of the county where greater amenities are offered at the parks if this would be a conversation we would even have.</p> <p>Lake Accotink is a local treasure and Fairfax County should be investing to improve and expand the use of the park, not destroying it for generations to come.</p>
1/31/2018	Lake Management Survey	The problem is the upstream errosion, ex Flag run creek which is the drainage runoff for the Beltway, The creek has erdoded 10 feet on either side in the last 10 years, guess where all that silt is going
1/31/2018	Lake Management Survey	Save the Lake!!
1/31/2018	Lake Management Survey	If I could vote for two options I would have F as primary and E as secondary. With either of those I would like to see more nature trails. I commend you on these plans. They are a viable alternative to the sediment issue.
1/31/2018	Lake Management Survey	
1/31/2018	Lake Management Survey	I have lived next to the lake for 12 years. thank you for your thoughtful options and for including citizen input into the decision.

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1/31/2018 Lake Management Survey Please don't take our lake away! We moved to this area specifically because of the lake and the environment around it almost 15 years ago. We both walk and ride our bikes around the lake about 27 or 28 days each month. It is a major part of our daily routine. We would prefer our taxes go to maintaining something the entire county and especially the community around it can enjoy instead of them going to some special interest group. Thank you!

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2/1/2018 email Good morning, Gayle! As I walk daily through the park and greet all the 'regulars', many of us have been discussing all the options, and there is some confusion about when the next public meeting is; is it on Feb. 5th, or was that just the 'rain date' for the Jan. 22nd meeting?

I should also mention that MANY of us (walkers, joggers, runners, and those like myself with neurological damage after chemo) need the DIRT path for our bones, joints, and in my case, neuropathy; I am UNABLE to walk on pavement or cement, and we are all VERY distressed about the plans to pave the entire path around the lake! I have also spoken with a biologist from the Smithsonian who notes that paving adds 20 years of toxins to the soil and stream!!!! NOT at all desirable. Could the park perhaps concentrate on making the beach area accessible, and leave the path alone? Thank you; and I am looking forward to finding out when the website updates have been completed! Respectfully.... Marynelle.

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2/1/2018 Parkmail As a frequent user of Accotink's wonders, I say this:

1. In this day of "Forget natural habitats, just strip down whatever trees are necessary (The Trump Approach).
2. Natural habitats are (sadly) disappearing. But here, in Northern Virginia, we treasure them, and will do everything possible to maintain them, as they are good for our health and our souls. Natural habitats are every bit as valuable and necessary as schools, churches, fine art, and love.

You have my permission to use these words and my name in any of your lectures, meetings, publications.

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2/1/2018	Parkmail	<p>I recently reviewed the Lake Accotink Park Master Plan Revision options and was shocked to see that one option under consideration was to stop active management of the park. This option would not only destroy a beloved part of my community but would destroy home values in the area as well. I am strongly opposed to any plan that would reduce the longevity or use of the park (e.g., option A) and urge you to manage the park in a way that both increases its use and value to the community.</p> <p>My family moved to the area two years ago, in large part because of the beauty of the lake and the resource it would provide our children. Just yesterday I walked around the lake with my infant daughter. Allowing Lake Accotink to die would deprive me, my family, and my neighbors the benefit of enjoying the lake and park within walking distance from our home.</p> <p>Currently, the lake is a major attraction for residents and potential residents for our area. Our property values reflect the benefit that the lake provides our community and destruction of the lake or park would drag property values down and reduce the attractiveness of our community. Springfield already struggles to compete with other parts of NoVa for new residents. Destroying the lake and park would ensure that our community remains at a disadvantage.</p> <p>I urge you to take an approach to actively manage the lake and park in a manner that not only maintains current use but expands the availability of more modern outdoor activities that my generation seeks. For example, lake use regulations could be relaxed to include use of stand-up paddleboards. Access to the lake can be modified to make it easier to launch personal kayaks and canoes. Passive trash collection systems (like those placed in Baltimore harbor) can be installed. Taking steps to increase the use of the lake and park can not only increase property values (increasing tax revenue for the county) but will make Lake Accotink more attractive for future generations.</p> <p>Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.</p>
2/1/2018	Parkmail	<p>I have been a long time user of Lake Accotink Park . I have enjoyed Lake Accotink Park for over 41 years. I want to continue using the park for many more years. I have spent the majority of my time in the park either running or walking on the park trails. I have seen a multitude of wildlife in the park and hope that this will continue. I also have met numerous &amp; interesting individuals in the park. Finally, my grandchildren are presently enjoying Lake Accotink Park.</p> <p>I enjoyed the Lake Accotink Park presentation on 22 January 2018. I have attended the majority of the meetings on the Lake Accotink Park for a few years. The issue of using trains to transport the dredging material from Lake Accotink Park was presented a few years ago and yet there is NO estimate for this proposal. On the latest e-mail dated 1 February 2018, using trains to transport the dredging material was mentioned. I have the following questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Will the use of trains to transport the dredging material from Lake Accotink Park be investigated and what is the estimated cost?</li> <li>2. When will we know which options will be implemented for Lake Accotink Park?</li> </ol>
2/1/2018	Lake Management Survey	<p>I would love to keep the lake as it is, but just does not seem economically viable to continue the current dredging approach. Having a smaller lake or pond seems like the best option. Not having a lake at all would really kill the park.</p>
2/1/2018	Lake Management Survey	<p>I say start with a general traffic connection between the lots, but make it clear that this is not to be used as a commuter route with citations issued if this becomes a problem.</p> <p>My preference is to keep some sort of lake, as large as possible. If done well with connecting trails and bridges making for a scenic walking/biking/hiking space, then option F would be my second choice.</p> <p>I also think connecting the roads could make it a busy cut through for people looking to get through the neighborhoods and under the train tracks. Has potential for this to become a cut through route been considered?</p>
2/1/2018	Lake Management Survey	<p>Very good description of all the Lake Management options.</p> <p>For the connectivity- I use this park quite a bit. I don't think the disconnect between the parking lots is an issue that needs fixed. I think that if they were connected, the park could potentially be used as a cut through. I don't think neighborhoods on either side of the entrances or users of the park would be excited about the prospect of that.</p>
2/1/2018	Lake Management Survey	<p>Please charge a small fee \$1 cash only for use of the lower lot. The lower lot area is a the source of a lot trash and litter. The picnic area is also tremendously over-used and a source of trash/litter that ends up in the lake and neighborhood. A simple parking gate a pay box will address this issue. Do not do it on the upper lot because it will just force people to park in the neighborhoods and leave their litter there instead. Please post large friendly/tactfully worded "keep the park clean" signs in multiple-multiple-multiple languages. Thank you!</p>
2/1/2018	Lake Management Survey	<p>Connection should prohibit any truck traffic. Path should snake through existing parking lots to discourage speeding of any through traffic from Springfield to North Springfield.</p>



2/1/2018	Lake Management Survey	I just wanted to thank you for allowing online access to the presentations and voting. I have been following the Master Plan Revision closely over the last year, but have not been able to make any of the meetings -- it's very hard in the evenings with small children to care for. This topic is of particular interest to me and my family, as we are situated close to the entrance of the park. We are truly grateful for the opportunity to be included in this study. Thank you for taking the time and effort to do so.
2/1/2018	Lake Management Survey	We live on Heming Avenue and regularly walk our dog, ride our bikes with our children, play at the playground, orienteer, explore the streams, ride the carousel, play mini golf, attend gatherings- basically use the Accotink Lake Park in all capacities. We would like to see the Lake preserved, but see the fiscal and environmental value of Plan F, but Plan C is a close second for us. We have lived in the neighborhood since 2003 and have been through one round of dredging with no major impact. I grew up in Fairfax County and would grieve the loss of this lake providing recreation to the East side of the County. As residents, we would not want to connect the upper and lower parking lots as Heming Avenue and Queensbury are already a cut through road for nonresidents seeking to avoid Braddock Road congestion. Opening up a pass through Lake Road just opens up the volume of traffic and provided another potential short cut through the Lake for commuters avoiding Backlick Road congestion. Obviously in the case of an emergency, it would be important for transportation to the nearest hospital to reduce risk and there is already a service road in place that can be used for this purpose, although it could use maintenance.
2/1/2018	Lake Management Survey	Lake Accotink and the surrounding area is used by my family extensively, as well as by neighbors and friends. Any attempt to remove the lake or to reduce the county's management will be strongly opposed by the residents of our community.  If improvements are to be made, remove the carousel and mim-gold facilities, which are rarely used, and make the area more outdoor activity friendly (Fountainhead Regional Park is an example). Importantly, rules could be changed to make the lake itself more user friendly, such as allowing stand-up paddling and other water sports. Relaxing the regulations surrounding the use of the lake will bring more users and increase interest in improvement projects.
2/1/2018	Lake Management Survey	This lake is the reason we moved to our house less than two years ago. Our expanding family frequently uses the lake and enjoys our regular walks around the lake and through its surrounding forest. The lake should be actively managed and improved, allowable recreational uses of the lake should be expanded, and the county must avoid destroying the values of the homes in the surrounding area.
2/1/2018	Lake Management Survey	I like Option F with added trails on the reclaimed land. A smaller lake would retain the unique boating opportunity, and enhance the features, uses and beauty of the park. The second best idea is Option E, which also could provide new trails, and perhaps a boardwalk through the wetlands.  The dredging has destroyed trees in the past and should not continue due to the cost, trucks, and environmental damage.
2/1/2018	Lake Management Survey	It would make more traffic on Heming Ave. to have a connection. This would be abused by commuters and be annoying to residents.
2/1/2018	Lake Management Survey	The lake is still beautiful the way it is. And I don't want it to be different.
2/1/2018	Lake Management Survey	Lake Accotink is a peaceful jewel in an otherwise very busy area! If the lake size were to be diminished, it could not sustain the eagles, cormorants, great blue herons, green herons, kingfishers, mergansers, geese, mallards, wood ducks, black ducks, teal, and many species of shorebirds! Turtles, otters, and frogs make their homes in the lake and its tributaries! There are showy orchids along the lane to the lower parking lot; any new disruption connecting the parking lots could destroy many native plant species! PLEASE keep this park the treasure that it currently is! Thank you!
2/2/2018	Lake Management Survey	I'm all for more trails even if that means less lake.
2/2/2018	Lake Management Survey	The upper and lower parking lots are connected already, presumably for emergency/park use only. I see no benefit of connecting the parking lots, that would only provide a "cut through" option and potentially increase traffic in the park.  In your messaging, you need to make it CLEAR that the park is going nowhere, this is only about the lake itself. I love the lake, but I use the park primarily for the trails and other activities it provides. In 14 years, I've not once fished/boated on Accotink. I prefer the larger Burke Lake for that.
2/2/2018	Lake Management Survey	I believe the best management option is the one that maintains the existence of the lake. It is by far the most important element of the park that not only draws people but wildlife, especially water fowl.  I do not support connecting the upper and lower parking lots. I realize that it would improve accessibility, but the risk of having general pass through say by commuters is too high
2/3/2018	Parkmail	I wanted to express my concern for the proposed changes to Lake Accotink here in Springfield. As a long time resident of the neighborhood directly surrounding the lake I enjoy many benefits to having such an amazing resource near by. It is one of the reasons I chose to buy my house here. I often take my dog for walks around the lake, my children love to go to Lakeside Fun Camp there and have been every summer for the last six years. Additionally my son and his Uncle idle many a summer day over at the lake casting lines and catching fish.  Take away my selfish reasons for wanting the lake to remain in its current state, I cringe to think what the impact of this change will have for the local wildlife. Also why exactly is Lake Accotink being put on the chopping block as opposed to one of the many other county maintained lakes. Could it perhaps be that the demographics over here makes us seem more vulnerable and easier to prey on? If that is the case then shame on the county and it will come to light. Please reconsider these changes to the lake that the county is putting in to motion.
2/4/2018	Parkmail	I am a concerned resident who just learned of the potential plans to remove the Lake. This is shocking as I have enjoyed the Lake my whole life, about 38 years. My kids now enjoy it with me. Can you provide details on why this is even a thought, and what I can do to fight against the idea?

2/4/2018	Parkmail	Way more important to put funding there, then to rename schools that have carry the same names for so many years, and only now come up as objectionable.  Save our kids future. And that future is our environment. Put the money on the lake not renaming schools.
2/4/2018	Lake Management Survey	I think too much traffic would effect the park structure.
2/4/2018	Lake Management Survey	Lake Accotink provides a haven for many birds -- waterfowl, shorebirds, raptors, passerines, both year-round and during migration. Many of these species could not be supported with a simple stream and floodplain. Granted that the costs involved in removing sediment are huge; but if there really is a long-term plan to address the real problem -- upstream erosion -- then it would be a shame to remove the dam to solve a relatively short-term problem, when the lake could be saved via the long-term solution.
2/4/2018	Lake Management Survey	I worry connecting the lots would lead to through traffic.
2/4/2018	Lake Management Survey	Re. connectivity, my preference is to connect, but at minimum, a connection for emergency access only seems an important improvement and worth the cost and impact.  Re. the smaller lake, I believe some form of installed aeration system, like a fountain or something, may be needed to ensure oxidation of the lake. Correct?
2/5/2018	Lake Management Survey	I think a connection would be very helpful. My wife prefers the lower lot and I like the upper one. The connection would help simplify getting to and from the park for us. We're halfway between Annandale and Springfield and sometimes where we need to go after being at the park affects where we park.
2/5/2018	Lake Management Survey	I believe Option F is the best compromise between defeating what nature wants to do, and the desire for a lake recreation facility, at a manageable cost. At such a minimum depth for the separate lake, it might also be possible to have ice skating in winter; something not available (safely) in most other area parks. John Tirpak 10405 Woodbury Woods Court Fairfax VA 22032
2/5/2018	Lake Management Survey	I live in the Kings Park neighborhood just west of Lake Accotink, and use the park and its amenities, including the lake itself, frequently. Option C would be my second choice. Total elimination of the lake (Option E) would be my least preferred alternative.
2/6/2018	Lake Management Survey	This would take away more trees and natural habitat. I don't believe the road is needed and would make the park more crowed and dangerous for visitors. We already have a problem with driving schools frequently using the parking lots to train new drivers. As a bicyclist I find this nerve wrecking and have had several harrowing experiences.
2/6/2018	Lake Management Survey	Limiting the park space available for use or changing it to a much less attractive space is a bad idea all around. There's nothing left in that area quite like this. We are so fully developed all around the Springfield area. It's a death for what makes you want to live around here (and sometimes tolerate living around here) and have something you can walk to, bike to, or take a quick drive to. There has to be an escape from traffic, work, etc. that's right around the corner. I liken it to taking central park out of New York. We might not see it, but we are more urban than suburban compared to any other suburb area that I've lived in, so thickly populated. We want families to want to live around here. We want kids to see some trees and water instead of getting in trouble on the streets - even if just once - because streets will all that will be left in that immediate area. I'm in Burke Centre, I left Springfield a long time ago. Springfield is an area I felt had potential, on the cusp of turning around, but my children were better off down the road at different schools. But I still go to accotink as much as burke lake. I try to see past mcmansions, town centers, and the "faufax" looking development projects, or I'd be in Loudoun already instead of driving to accotink after work to get my favorite run in. Please don't make our area even less liveable. Less real. thanks for raising awareness about this project.
2/6/2018	Lake Management Survey	I like the idea of keeping a smaller lake for canoeing and possible paddleboats, but going back to a free-flowing stream.
2/7/2018	Lake Management Survey	I think it is very important for people around the lake to have some lake water present. But the cost and disruption with creating a forebay is too much to make it worth it. Resources can be better put somewhere else. I am in favor of restoring a single-channel stream, with a smaller lake that doesn't need the dredging work. That way we have the best of all worlds, with significantly-diminished costs. Thank you for your time.
2/7/2018	Lake Management Survey	
2/7/2018	Lake Management Survey	Lake Accotink is priceless and Fairfax County needs to devote the resources to maintain and protect this environmental gem. Residents from all over the county visit and enjoy the wildlife and healthy outdoor activities Lake Accotink provides and promotes. Now more than ever county residents need areas such as Lake Accotink to get outside and experience just being outside at the very least.
2/7/2018	Lake Management Survey	As a long-time FFX county resident and taxpayer, born and raised in Kings Park, it would be unacceptable to see Accotink not maintained at the current size and usefulness to the community. The property values and marketability of adjacent homes would decline. The livability of the area would decline. The environmental impacts to those in the immediate area and DOWNSTREAM would be tremendous. We pay significant tax dollars to the county every year. Every year our assessments go up. Yet the county cannot find a way to appropriately schedule and budget for maintenance of community amenities, environmental impacts, suburban planning.
2/7/2018	Lake Management Survey	It is a hard decision, but my vote is for no management - with the lake ultimately becoming a meadow. The cost of continuing to keep it a man made lake is too high. I'd rather see the money put into trail improvement, schools or infrastructure improvement. My experience over 33 years of running around the lake at least 3 times a week is that the great majority of people who use the park do so for running, walking, biking or picnicking rather than boating or fishing. If people want to fish or boat, they can go to Burke Lake. Thank you.
2/7/2018	Lake Management Survey	Please keep Lake Accotink's size and clear the adjacent creeks for our ongoing recreation. It is a real treat for those w/small children, dogs, and kids of all ages. Thank you for your ideas and listening to nearby residents (and tax payers!)
2/7/2018	Lake Management Survey	While I live nearby, I don't live in the neighborhood closest to this part of the park. I fear that connecting the two lots may increase running through the lots, or crime. I do like that emergency vehicles or park vehicles could get through.

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2/8/2018 A email

Kristen,

I'm not sure if you're the one I should talk to about this, but after talking to you after the meeting at West Springfield Elementary School, I think you're my best contact at the county.

I would like to propose the following solution:

I think we are going about this all the wrong way. The lake is still OK right now. The immediate need is to stem the flow of silt into the lake. Let's get the funding to do that NOW, and worry about getting funding to dredge the lake later.

I understand that there are plans to re-align Danbury Forrest Dr. with Wakefield Chapel Rd. (shown in red on my diagram). This is part of the Braddock Road widening project, and a needed change due to the hazard of the grid-lock posed by the current misalignment.

Since that area, and the Long Branch stream are going to be disrupted anyway, why don't they create a recharge-basin there to catch the silt coming from both Long Branch and Accotink Creek? This solves several problems:

- 1) The county-proposed Fore-Bay would have to be dredged every year. That would disrupt the natural habitat, and I believe it would probably scare off our eagles and other wildlife. Also, dredging at that end of the lake is problematic because there are no roads nearby. My proposal would move the annual dredging process away from the lake.
- 2) This option would provide a recharge-basin close to a major roadway (Braddock Road). Trucks would not have to drive through residential neighborhoods for the annual dredging. Danbury Forrest Dr. conveniently has no residences along that stretch.
- 3) The disruption could be carried out at the same time as the Braddock Road widening and Danbury Forrest Dr. realignment. The recharge basin should be in place to catch sediment resulting from the work on Braddock Road.
- 4) The land "cut" to provide the recharge basin could be used as "fill" for the widening of Braddock Road. Unsuitable soil could be used to provide a berm and/or reshape the wetlands. This could substantially save on the cost of the Braddock Road widening.

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2/8/2018 B email

- 5) Residents at the north end of our Ravensworth Farm would get a new lake.
- 6) The sediment truck parking/staging area could double as a parking area for commuters. That parking area could also be much closer to Braddock Rd., than I show it, depending on traffic studies, etc.
- 7) If this whole project could be piggy-backed onto the Braddock Road widening project. Everybody in the County would vote in favor of that much smaller bond referendum (if any)
- 8) This would divorce the silt management needs of the Accotink Creek from Lake Accotink. This recharge basin would then qualify for storm-water management funds from the State.

Here is a schematic diagram. Let me know your thoughts. I suspect that I show the recharge basin much larger than it needs to be.

Please forward this to the appropriate persons.

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2/8/2018 Parkmail

I have carefully reviewed all the options. Given the recreational value of Lake Accotink and it's value as a turbidity sink, the lake and the dam must be preserved with an added forebay or something similar.

There are possible alternatives to the plans as presented. Instead of a forebay, to reduce the impact and cost of annual dredging, a pond should be dug at the confluence of Accotink Creek and Long Branch. This location is more convenient to Braddock Rd for transporting removed sediment off-site, and the impact on turbidity will probably be increased.

I am writing in my individual capacity. I am also the President of the Ravensworth Farm Civic Association, which will adopt a resolution at its next general membership meeting on March 22.

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2/8/2018 Parkmail

As a resident of Springfield for 19 years, I am extremely appreciative of Lake Accotink Park. I would prefer the county fund whatever is necessary to keep the lake large enough for kayaking, fishing and general enjoyment. The lake provides hours of recreation, beauty and serenity in an area that is in constant hustle. It is a moment to relax and enjoy nature away from the overwhelming sounds of traffic that surround Springfield VA. When as a family, we kayak into the creek we are able to feel miles away from the hustle and noise of traffic. We are able to truly appreciate nature in all it's glory. I vote for the the lake to be dredged and for upstream measure to be created to help halt the down-flow of silt coming from other areas. It is very frustrating that the residents surrounding Lake Accotink will be penalized by the ongoing paving and lack of preventive measures upstream that have created the build up of silt.

I feel strongly that Lake Accotink should remain a viable lake large enough for enjoyment and aesthetics. The lake and the park are a key element of beauty and economic strength for our community. I do not want it filled-in or to become a small pond. In addition to dredging it, I believe FCPA should create upstream measures to halt the silt and run-off from other communities and overly paved areas (HOV lanes etc.).

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2/8/2018 Lake Management Survey

I have enjoyed Accotink for 30 years. I use the trails the most. While I have rented a twice. I believe the park (outdoor natural area)should be saved the lake part isn't that appealing.

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2/8/2018	Lake Management Survey	The presentation slides do not clarify which is best for the ecosystem, wildlife, habitat, water quality/quantity. I support whichever option is most environmentally beneficial and sustainable over time. I'm left to guess that this would be a more "natural" stream channel, but not sure I have all the info I would need to apply my goals for the park.
2/8/2018	Lake Management Survey	Lake Accotink Park has been one of the good things about living in this area. Thank you for working to continue and improve the lake and park. If you have not done so, I suggest working closely with Huntley Meadows Park staff, as they also deal with sediment and other concerns. Although not a lake issue, one of my park concerns is bicycles and pedestrians sharing the same trails; too many bikers travel too fast and do not give a warning of their approach. Separate trails should be established for safety of bikers and walkers. Perhaps if one of the new, less expensive plans is put into place, Lake Accotink would be given more employees to keep property maintained and to keep visitors from abusing the park (washing cars, creating new trails, removing plants, etc.).
2/8/2018	Lake Management Survey	If you decide to drain the swamp, I would like to see a variety of walking and bike trails installed, surrounding a recreational center large enough to support 6-8 basketball courts, with the flexibility to accommodate other activities. Thank you.
2/8/2018	Lake Management Survey	Save the lake.
2/8/2018	Lake Management Survey	There is already emergency access between the upper and lower lots, along the upper road behind the office. Connecting the lots will increase auto traffic and attendant air pollution and litter exponentially. The air pollution from the increased traffic will retard undergrowth for about 25 meters on either side of the road, destroy lower branches on the mid- and old-growth trees, and threaten the health of the old growth. It will destroy habitat for many birds, including the somewhat rare red-shouldered hawk and pileated woodpeckers. And the increased traffic and increased litter will attract rats, pigeons, more seagulls, and other crawling and flying vermin. It also may make Accotink draw more gang activity if it is seen as a shortcut or getaway route by car.
2/9/2018	Parkmail	I would like to see Option F / single channel with smaller lake. It is, after all, Lake Accotink Park. As far as the connectivity from Hemming Ave to the lower parking lot and Highland St exit are concerned, why not, the speed bumps will hopefully keep the commuters passing thru to a minimum.
2/9/2018	Lake Management Survey	Option B or Option C seem to be appropriate since I want to keep the lake at its current size. Are the increased costs of option C worth the reduced disruption for hauling dredging material over future years? It is not clear to me in the slide presentation. I wonder if option c requirement for small scale dredging every one or two years wouldn't be considered more disruptive than a big dredging every 15 years?
2/9/2018	Lake Management Survey	Lake Akkotink Park is the key feature/amenity for those of us who live in the West Springfield / East Burke area. I don't see the need to turn it into yet another clogged road, or shrink the lake, turning it into a haven for mosquitoes. The current as-is set up works fine and I don't see any pressing need to change it. If the county wants to save money, then perhaps they should consider closing some of the various water parks.
2/9/2018	Lake Management Survey	Thank you for conducting this survey.
2/10/2018	Lake Management Survey	The Lake: While the lake is nice, I don't believe the benefits outweigh the considerable maintenance costs. I'd rather see this park returned to it's original, natural state as much as possible. I understand this means losing the lake and the dam but I think it's necessary to balance benefits and costs as a taxpayer. I also see no reason to increase vehicle traffic in this natural area, other than to provide access for emergencies. The Trails: I use the trails around the park often for walking and running, as do many, many others. I'd like to see the existing trails improved, with crushed rock or other natural material, so they can be better used during inclement weather or after hard rains. Currently, the trails can be very muddy and especially inaccessible around the dam after a hard rain. If the dam and lake are removed, or if they aren't, please upgrade/elevate the trail near water elements so flooding of the trail is not an issue.  Summary: I think Lake Accotink is a marvelous area and I would love to see it improved so more and more people can enjoy it year-round. Thank you to all the experts and government entities for researching and devising these options and holding the public hearings so we all have a say. It's much appreciated.
2/11/2018	Lake Management Survey	I remember when they were connected. I use the park with my car far less no that you have to drive into springfield to get to the parking under the bridge. My wife never goes down there on her own any more, only when I drive. I hated it when you stopped allowing us to drive in from the top parking lot. I still ride my bike that way but cant drive and take the wife and kids.
2/11/2018	Lake Management Survey	Option D also sounds like a good thing to add on to Option F - recommend continued consideration. Thanks
2/12/2018	Lake Management Survey	Keep the lake & park
2/12/2018	Lake Management Survey	If we remove the dam and revert to a single stream channel, wouldn't all the sediment just wash downstream? I realize that removing and dealing with the sediment is expensive, but it is a major pollutant for the Chesapeake Bay. Does the County get credit in the Bay TMDL and cleanup for all the sediment that is collected and contained in the lake, and not washed downstream?
2/12/2018	Lake Management Survey	I think the smaller lake is too small to get some offset with recreational spending. I am in favor of a little larger lake used for boating, fishing, and off course trails. Maybe a train around the lake ie: Burke lake. Perhaps a Mini golf of other small recreational areas for kids. Maintain the pavilion areas and clean them up so folks want to use them. A roadway from one entrance to another is a must. The way it is now is useless.

2/12/2018	Lake Management Survey	Subject: Lake Accotink's Future Plan
<p>I moved to North Springfield in 1984 and attended 6th grade at N. Springfield Elementary. Having the lake in the neighborhood was a large attraction for moving to N. Springfield. My immediate and extended family have used the grounds of the lake countless times over the years for the trails, picnic areas, playgrounds, boating, fishing, and relishing nature. I even drowned there. It has always been a place to spend time even until today as I am raising my own family. My children and wife love it. I cannot put to words how each one of them finds immersive value in their individual and shared experiences. It might not be the most well-known park in the County but out of all the parks I have been to it is the one that gets revisited the most.</p>		
<p>I learned today that these events were happening and I had to speak up today. I have reviewed all the documentation of the purposed planning options and I feel the Option F, (streamed channel with smaller lake) will best preserve the way Lake Accotink was meant to be. The other alternatives will not make it Lake Accotink anymore. The dam structure and area surrounding it always seemed dirty and a place to avoid. Developing that area to sustain vegetation and wildlife is a welcomed improvement to the existing stagnant and unpleasant one. The reclaimed land will provide new experiences for future families to enjoy wildlife and various species of vegetation that the singe trail system limited.</p>		
<p>My vote for option F considers both preserving the natural habitat of Lake Accotink and the value it brings to current and future visitors.</p>		
2/13/2018	Lake Management Survey	Has anyone analyzed the pollution impact of 35000-50000 truck trips? That impact alone negates the dredging options. Why do the tailings have to be removed from the area? Are they toxic? Why can't they be piled on site?
2/13/2018	Lake Management Survey	<p>Lake Accotink has been exceptionally important to me in the 29 years I've been a Fairfax County resident and have lived in the Cardinal Forest/Charlestown community. I have used its trails for marathon training runs, dog walks, and walks with my grand kids. I have gone on canoe rides, fishing expeditions, and picnics around the Lake. I have seen beaver, foxes, deer, turtles, and even a nest of fledgling eagles! The most important thing to me is that we keep some semblance of what we have now, but at the same time try to impact the natural environment as little as possible. I now live near the Carleigh Pkwy Accotink Creek "improvement" project which has dragged out past schedule and has essentially destroyed or driven out all natural life in the construction area. The family of foxes that have had their den along the banks for the 29 years I've lived here, have relocated and I doubt will ever return. That's just sad.</p>
2/13/2018	Lake Management Survey	<p>Option F provides a cost effective alternative to the other options while preserving the recreational value of the lake and the park. Option A does nothing except delay the requirement to do something. Alternatives B &amp; C are very costly - and really commit the county to a very long term series of dredging expenses. Option F will cost only a little more than Option D while preserving the lake and its recreational value.</p>
2/14/2018	Parkmail	<p>Regarding lake accotink can I assume that none of the options A thru F will have any negative impact on the areas surrounding the lake? such as trails, carousel, mini golf, playground, picnic sites, food stand, sandy beach?Regarding lake accotink can I assume that none of the options A thru F will have any negative impact on the areas surrounding the lake? such as trails, carousel, mini golf, playground, picnic sites, food stand, sandy beach?</p>
2/14/2018	Parkmail	<p>My name is Lisa Anderson. I am a Kings Park resident for the past 11 years.</p> <p>I am contacting you today to ask you to PLEASE support efforts to preserve Lake Accotink and the Lake Accotink recreational areas. My family walks and jogs around the lake regularly. We have celebrated birthdays and high school graduations in the picnic area. There is nothing else like it within walking distance of our community. We greatly value the lake, the trail, and the recreation areas as a community resource.</p>
2/14/2018	Parkmail	<p>I am writing to express my support for continued dredging of Lake Accotink. I live behind the park, off Carrleigh Parkway, and use the trails almost everyday. This location and access to the lake is one of the main reasons I bought my residence.</p> <p>I have reviewed the options presented and whole heartedly support Option B, continued dredging as we have been. I am fully aware of the costs and what it would mean to have trucks going through the neighborhood, but I believe the return on investment is worth it.</p> <p>In the event that Option B is not possible, Option F would be my backup selection. That said, I strongly feel Option B is the way to go.</p>

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2/14/2018 Parkmail

Option C, creating a forebay will lead to a full dredge every 35 years. But if 500k cu yd are dumped into the lake every 30 years, that's 16.7k cu yd per year, if the forebay dredging is 12k per year, then net 4.7k cu yd is sent to the lake every year. Meaning a full 500k dredging would take more than 100 years. Am I missing something about the math here?

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2/14/2018 Parkmail

At last night's meeting with the community about Lake Accotink, I asked a question about the master plan. Based on Supervisor Cook's response, my question was not clear enough. Let me put it more clearly in writing and hopefully someone can give the answer I was looking for.

Lake Accotink and the entire Accotink Creek watershed are just a small part of the entire Chesapeake Bay watershed and how to manage runoff throughout the region is far from being a new concern. I suspect the Commonwealth has plans that have been coordinated with the other states in the bay's watershed and with the EPA. I wouldn't be surprised if there are state and federal regulations and laws Fairfax County must follow in any attempt to preserve or abandon Lake Accotink. What are these regulations and laws and how do the six proposals for the lake summarized at the meeting comply with them?

I also asked a question about addressing the silt problem at the source. Supervisor Cook was very quick to dismiss fixing "all the streams" as "physically impossible." He also stated that "the people who are causing the problem are all of us." This statement is patently false. Rain falling on my property soaks into the ground before it crosses the property line. Likewise many, if not the vast majority of homeowners are responsible stewards who do not have any part of their property eroding away and do not have large impervious areas where water just washes into the storm drains either carrying small particles or to cause erosion downstream. What are the facts about our silt sources? How much comes from already developed residential properties? How much comes from the healthiest streams? How much comes from the worst streams? How much of the silt load comes from poorly managed construction sites? Why is it appropriate to blame all sources equally? Why isn't addressing the problem at its source the environmentally responsible, cost-effective longterm solution, not just to silt accumulation in Lake Accotink but throughout the county?

I know there are many facets to this problem that are environmental, economic, and emotional. We need to make decisions based on facts - or at least good estimates. Thank you for your time and attention.

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2/14/2018	Parkmail	<p>I'll be very brief. I've lived in Charlestown (walking distance from the lake) for 20 years. I'm now retired. My wife and I visit the lake and it's trails quite often for natural solitude and beauty. It's a treasure this close to the big city. We supremely treasure it. Please consider continuing and maintaining Lake Accotink into the future. For us it is irreplaceable.</p> <p>Please don't hesitate to contact me regarding this issue at 703-300-5565.</p>
2/14/2018	Lake Management Survey	This lake is terribly polluted. The funds would be better suited to a lake that is easier to maintain and with a higher patronage volume.
2/14/2018	Lake Management Survey	The Park Authority already has excellent facilities for open water recreation at both Burke Lake Park and Lake Fairfax Park. These two parks are popular, conveniently located to serve populations across the County, and well maintained. The money spent to dredge Lake Accotink Park would be put to better use elsewhere, and the lake should be allowed to return to a natural state. Option E is the best option both ecologically and fiscally.
2/14/2018	Lake Management Survey	The lake provides an extremely valuable resource for local residents, and is one of the main reasons we decided to move to the area. We love going there year-round!
2/14/2018	Lake Management Survey	Providing actual or estimated data on how many visitors per day or per month use Lake Accotink and its facilities and trails would be helpful to make the preferred option.
2/14/2018	Lake Management Survey	<p>I am writing to express my support for continued dredging of Lake Accotink. I live behind the park, off Carrleigh Parkway, and use the trails almost everyday. This location and access to the lake is one of the main reasons I bought my residence.</p> <p>I have reviewed the options presented and whole heartedly support Option B, continued dredging as we have been. I am fully aware of the costs and what it would mean to have trucks going through the neighborhood, but I believe the return on investment is worth it.</p> <p>In the event that Option B is not possible, Option F would be my backup selection. That said, I strongly feel Option B is the way to go.</p>
2/14/2018	Lake Management Survey	<p>I am a frequent user of Accotink Park. I mostly use the Heming entrance but sometimes the Backlick entrance. It's never been a problem to use two different entrances. Maybe just having a couple more maps/signs letting new users know there is another way in?</p> <p>I frequently walk around the lake and enjoy it very much. However I see the cost is getting prohibitive to keep doing things the same way. Choice F seems to be the best of both, still have a small lake but allow for a stream with restoration.</p> <p>Accotink could generate more revenue as well. The mini golf is a joke, if it were like Jefferson Falls, it would make tons of money. Also, the picnic shelters could be nicer and then there could be a charge for booking the shelters. All the picnic tables are packed every weekend in nice weather so that could be a money maker. How about a dog park area? How about a decent playground? Accotink is often the park that time forgot. Changes and upgrades, like paving the bike path route around the lake to connect Old Keene Mill to Wakefield, would bring tons more people to enjoy the park as well. Thanks for asking for our opinion, much appreciated.</p>
2/14/2018	Lake Management Survey	SAVE THE LAKE!! WHATEVER IT COSTS!! IT IS TOO VALUABLE A RESOURCE TO LET GO!!
2/14/2018	Lake Management Survey	<p>Option F seems like the best compromise on the issue. Though I would not be personally impacted by Option A or E, I think recognizing the use of the lake for boating and other uses is important. It wasn't 100% clear to me why the smaller lake would NEVER need dredging and the dam would need no maintenance (all things need maintenance at some point!). Also the picture shows no water flow in/out of the small lake. How does the lake stay healthy without water flow? Will the single thread channel's path develop in it's own naturally? If so, is there any possibility that this would increase flood potential for nearby homes or schools? If so, could intervention be needed to "correct" the flow?</p> <p>My family's primary use of the park is for hiking and playground use so the status of the lake does not impact our usage of the park. Continuing to maintain the trails to be stroller friendly is important to us. The trails don't need to be paved, but relatively smooth dirt paths are very important. The areas of the trails near Carrleigh Pkwy should be improved to remove the water-runoff ruts.</p> <p>The connectivity options do not impact us because we live off of Braddock Rd and it is more convenient for us to park in the neighborhoods and walk into the park from Ravenel.</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on this.</p>
2/15/2018	email	<p>Regardless of what is decided about the lake itself, please don't negatively impact the extremely popular attractions around the lake: carousel, mini golf, playground, food stand, trails, picnic areas, covered picnic pavilions.</p> <p>Thank you, Carl Eichenlaub, North Springfield.</p>
2/15/2018	email	<p>Which of the Accotink designs provides the best downstream water impacts? I'm a little confused because I heard that the lake acts like a silt trap and the forebay design will help with that process. Then I read how restoring the creek provides a floodplain, which also helps disperse water energy and silt/nutrients across a broad area. Would the restored stream be natural (which sounds like the plan) and subject to erosion or would it be engineered like the sections recently completed at Wakefield?</p> <p>From a purely recreational standpoint, I personally love kayaking up the creek and dogs have a blast, too! Frog calls are deafening in the spring. No motor boats to deal with like in Bull Run or Occoquan.</p>
2/15/2018	Parkmail	<p>Accotink Lake is an institution. I grew up with the Lake in my back your and it helped form the person I am today. I dug underground forts, fished, hikes the circumference, skated on the frozen lake and watched the wildlife flourish. I even found a civil war bullet lodged in a hill. It was my lake long before the sludge formed islands in the middle. I left VA in 1989 but go out of my way to visit the lake and it's trails whenever I visit my family. Since I left there my Dad has deer, foxes and bald eagles in his yard. What a shame it would be to see the demise of this. I would be happy to donate whatever I can afford if it would keep the lake in it's present state. Please let me know who else I can write to to keep this institution alive.</p>

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2/15/2018 Parkmail

Are the comments you have received from the public available somewhere for everyone to see? If not, why not? I have attended some of the community meetings and feel that I have learned a lot from the views and insights of the public at those events. I would like to see what other comments you have received.

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2/15/2018 Parkmail

I am hoping you continue to dredge the lake and not do away with any part of it! We (citizens) didn't pass the parks bond referendum 13 years straight so you can do away with or minimize our lakes or parks... I see that 94 million went to running the park authority and 12 million went to park resources in the last bond.... I kinda see what needs to be dredged! Thank you for listening!

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2/15/2018 Parkmail

Please maintain Lake Accotink, it is a beautiful nearby natural escape for hiking, fishing, biking, nature talks and programs, camps, leadership and team outings and more. Lake Accotink provides economic stability for our residents and community as well as the benefits of having our own natural Fairfax County lake and parkland with excellent resources.

Greetings Dear Colleagues and Friends: I am writing to you today to respectfully request your support for an excellent economic, ecological, conservation effort to continue at Lake Accotink - following the intent of Strategic Planning Team (1993) that created and now maintain recreational facilities and programs. A majority of the lake, facilities and programs are used by businesses for corporate team building exercises and morale, therapy/yoga/stress relief, academia for biology, ecology, conservation, science, math and art (yes STEM & STAMP), visitors and residents to access and participate in lots of activities year round, see below:

Recreational Facilities at Lake Accotink      o Trails - hiking, biking, walk/jog      o Picnic areas      o Group picnic pavilions  
o Boating      o Fishing      o Carousel      o Playgrounds      o Open play area      o Food concessions      o Meeting room      o Miniature golf      Programs at Lake Accotink      o Interpretive programs  
o Nature hikes      o Live music and theatre performance      o Nature camps      o Special events      o Group activities      o Boating classes      o Recreational classes      \*\* Cardboard Regatta

shannon johnson - public comm conservation & recreation 804-786-5053 shannon.johnson@dcr.virginia.gov

804-786-5492 bill.conkle@dcr.virginia.gov

I just recieved notice of potential changes to the Lake a few days ago and regretibly was too sick and unable to attend this week's meeting. Please send proper community wide advance notice for the next community public meeting to preserve Lake Accotink (if possible) in it's current 55 acre lake state that so many corporate businesses, government, public, academia, business, visitors, community residents and constiutents can continue to enjoy, learn, have fun...and keep our Fairfax County Parks and rangers employed doing great work! Lots of veterans, retired folks work year round and high school and college kids look forward to working the winter, spring breaks and summer programs.

Thank you and best regards. Mimi

P.S. My son, Matthew, proposes Option G: drege and clean up the lake, and then let the beaver build upon the existing spillway/dam - this will preserve the natural beauty and ecology of the lake, sustain a natural animal species and increase wonderful activity from our scouts and 4-H members, as well as middle and high school service learners, as well businesses, academia, community constituents, !

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2/15/2018	Parkmail	<p>Thanks for putting together a comprehensive list of options for the future of the park. I'd vote for Option F (Single Thread Channel with Smaller Lake), which seems to be the best bridge between restoring the natural flow of the creek and retaining the recreational opportunities that the community enjoys.</p> <p>Keep up the good work!</p>
2/15/2018	Parkmail	<p>While I have enjoyed the trail around the lake for years - and like to look at the water from a distance, the up close and personal view is not so pleasant. Back in the early 2000's when Keely worked there as a high school student, the summer staff took turns doing the dreaded "dam clearing." I hated hearing about the gross things they had to remove from the lake! And they were always getting the pontoon boat stuck in the mud because the lake was so shallow in spots...I honestly never remember it being a lovely clear lake - always a rather muddy, trash strewn pool. I guess the water fowl like it, but I shivered every time someone fell into the lake during the cardboard boat regatta.</p> <p>So, looking at the options and the associated costs - and remembering the last dredging and its impact on park use and the neighborhood, I am not able to support continuing to spend millions of dollars maintaining a dam that is more than 60 years old and removing tons of earth that is washing down from the banks of the creek that the Park Authority has little control over. My favorite currently proposed option is the small (Burke Lake size isn't actually all that small...) lake off Flag Run and the natural creek. Seems like that might continue to support a larger variety of wildlife and provide the peaceful view of a (perhaps cleaner and certainly easier to maintain) flat body of water. I could also support the free-flowing creek with re-established forest and some adjacent trails.</p> <p>Good luck with this plan (HOW long have "we" been working on plans for this park? Pretty much since I was hired back in 1976...I was on the master plan team the previous time and have been involved in numerous discussions over the years. This would be a park that it would be interesting to see how many different PA employees have contributed to improving!) - and it will certainly be interesting if we are ever able to actually do something!</p> <p>Hope to see you all at another meeting! Or a more fun gathering.</p>
2/15/2018	Lake Management Survey	<p>I think you should just pave it and load it up with crappy condos, fast food chains and gas stations. Maybe slap some sketchy check cashing places in there while you're at it. You can call it CentreFax.</p> <p>Oh, and a Starbucks. We need more of those also.</p>
2/15/2018	Lake Management Survey	<p>I attended the February 13, 2018 meeting at Lake Braddock High School. Good presentation. Every one there appeared to me to be in favor of keeping Lake Accotink! The addition of a forebay (option C) is worth considering... but definitely keep Lake Accotink!</p>
2/15/2018	Lake Management Survey	<p>I think option E sounds the most sensible.</p> <p>I have lived in Northern VA for 34 years, and in the Franconia area for 31 years. My children and I have enjoyed Lake Accotink Park, but maybe it is time to let nature reclaim the land.</p> <p>Virginia Holloway</p>
2/15/2018	Lake Management Survey	<p>My husband and I visit this park many times throughout any given year. It gives us an opportunity to feel like we are lost in nature when, in actuality, we are surrounded by the unseen suburbia. We take advantage of all the different walking/biking paths it has to offer plus the nature watching opportunities. You can truly experience the "4 seasons" at Lake Accotink. What ever decisions are made, we hope that the surrounding nature and fauna won't be heavily impacted.</p>
2/15/2018	Lake Management Survey	<p>Accotink is a and will continue to be a great park, regardless of the fate of the lake. The decision about the lake should focus on protection of downstream areas at the lowest cost to the taxpayer unless voters approve a referendum supporting another strategy. I did not attend the meeting shown briefly on the ABC 7 news report, but my impression of Supervisor Cook's remarks was that he and other members of the BOS are of a mind to let voters decide. Neighbors should feel fortunate to live near the park no matter what. I am a neighbor. I'll love and benefit from the park no matter what happens to the lake. Everyone else I've spoken to feels the same. The park is great with the lake. The park would be different, but still great, without the lake.</p>
2/15/2018	Lake Management Survey	<p>I go to Lake Accotink every weekend to run. My friend and I either run around the lake or we run the path to Byron Ave. Please, please do not get rid of the lake! Just this past Saturday, we and others saw 2 bald eagles on the south side of the lake near their nest. If the lake goes, so do they. I see so many types of birds because of that lake. The environmental impact of removing the lake would be significant. I'm sure you're conducting impact studies. As a Fairfax County resident, I would be very sad to see this lake be reduced to a stream valley. How long would it take for what's currently lake bottom to become forested land? How would you keep invasive plants out? You've already got invasives at other locations around the lake. I know I'm not alone in my opinion, having talked to others at the park recently. Thanks for your consideration.</p>
2/15/2018	Lake Management Survey	<p>It is confusing to drive to Accotink so the connection would make sense. However, as someone who primarily runs and cycles to and around the park (nearly every day now for almost a decade!) I want to stress that</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) There should be a dedicated, protected bike lane adjacent to or on the traffic route until it meets the rest of the multi-use trail</li> <li>2) There should be a lot of traffic calming measures such as keeping the road winding, allowing parked cars to narrow the lane from the sides, traffic circles, speed humps, etc. to keep cars from disturbing and endangering park users. Accotink is where we go to get away from cars!</li> </ol> <p>adequate traffic calming measures should be taken.</p>

2/15/2018	Lake Management Survey	<p>I feel that the Lake itself is underutilized. Swimmers would be better served by a pool. The nature walks, bike &amp; hike trails would be preserved with option "E". For the money, choice E gives more peace of mind (no damn breach)</p> <p>Second choice would be F.</p> <p>I would like to add to my response that the money saved by not trying to keep up a decaying damn should be used on establishing a Fairfax County litter abatement unit. Quality of life in this county has taken a nose dive with the acceptance of growing trash on all highways, intersections, empty lots and walkway and curb sides.</p>
2/15/2018	Lake Management Survey	Options A-F are only short-term solutions to the general problem of creek erosion. In parallel with any option the county selects, we must make progress towards keeping the silt in its place, even if it is only slow progress.
2/15/2018	Lake Management Survey	This is a test from Kim Satterthwaite -- Please delete
2/15/2018	Parkmail	<p>My name is Gus Nielsen, and I have a long history associated with the park - I grew up in Ravensworth and worked at the park from 2006-2010 as park staff and marina supervisor. I became a stormwater engineer after college, so I found the slides from the January 2018 meeting particularly interesting!</p> <p>Initially, I balked at losing any of the lake - but to preserve what we have while noting limited resources, Alternative E seems to make a lot of sense. At least anecdotally, most of the boaters rarely made it past the island while I worked there, so a smaller lake shouldn't inhibit boating sales. As for the tour boat, we struggled to get around the island even immediately following the last dredging - having a well defined pool free of silt would help there as well.</p> <p>Having the stream bypass the new lake would also mitigate a favorite problem of ours: "mung," or all the debris that filled up the water between the dock and the snack bar.</p> <p>As for connectivity, the diagram appeared to show using the pedestrian access route as a new connection to the traffic circle - I would suggest using the park access road (gated road whose entrance is off the left of the Heming lot, looking at the lake) to avoid conflicts with the picnic areas - too many kids running around for a road through that area.</p> <p>The park's yearly revenue is about ~250k: what are the operating costs, and are the profits (if any) already put towards dam and land maintenance?</p> <p>Thanks for your time and for extending the comment period - this is a very import natural escape in an increasingly urban environment.</p>
2/16/2018	Parkmail	<p>I live within walking distance of Lake Accotink and visit the park often. The trail going around the lake is enjoyed by many...walkers, runners, bicyclists, photographers, couples, families outside together enjoying nature. Today I witnessed a toddler enjoying the himself at the waters edge by just throwing pebbles in the water and watching the waters reaction. His mom stood by and was enjoying watching his reaction. See attached photo.</p> <p>Please save Lake Accotink. It's a place where we can go and watch the sunsets. I say "Watch God paint the sky". It's so gorgeous over the lake.</p> <p>I think the activities offered there could be promoted more by park management or the park authority.</p>
2/16/2018	Lake Management Survey	If it is to be called Lake Accotink Park then there needs to be a lake. When is Flag Run being restored. No action so far any where on it that I can see and I back up to Flag Run. No connectivity. we don't need the added traffic in North Springfield on Heming Avenue. Fishing is my and my grandchildrens favorite activity at Lake Accotink, but the fishing has deteriorated in the last 10 years.
2/16/2018	Lake Management Survey	I believe the return to single stream whether it includes a retention of a smaller lake or not is the best overall plan. There are many other lake/river water activity resources in the county and the cost involved in keeping the current dam and lake seems to me to be an option killer for keeping the lake.
2/16/2018	Lake Management Survey	this is a test. please ignore
2/16/2018	Lake Management Survey	I believe Option F provides opportunity to increase the number of trails, increase wetland habitat to encourage the return of native animals, all while retaining a lake. The lake would be smaller, yes, but not as costly to taxpayers to maintain and--I presume--simultaneously allowing some recreational activities (i.e., catch and release fishing for youngsters, some paddle boats).
2/16/2018	Lake Management Survey	E or F will keep our tax payments to a minimum. Only concern is how Option F will refresh the water in the smaller lake so that it does not become overgrown with weeds and algae.
2/16/2018	Lake Management Survey	E & F are the only fiscally responsible options to minimize taxes.
2/16/2018	Lake Management Survey	In January, I saw skaters playing hockey on the lake; Option F retains the value of a recreational lake for such activities and the trails around the waterway while significantly reducing costs. Unless there is a compelling need to connect the upper and lower parking lots, which I don't see, why do it?
2/17/2018	Parkmail	<p>Thank you for your efforts to ensure public awareness and contribution to the planning process for Lake Accotink Park.</p> <p>I have reviewed the presentations posted on your website. I recommend option F as the best course that balances retention of some recreational value against cost and restoration of the natural environment. I am strongly opposed to options B and C.</p> <p>Thanks again for your interest in community feedback on this decision.</p>
2/17/2018	Lake Management Survey	Install a pay gate or paid parking format at the lower lot and issue fines for littering at all parking lots. The fee will be small - but will encourage better care for the park. Issue fines for dogs off-leash. Park behavior/etiquette signage is needed in multiple languages.

2/17/2018	Lake Management Survey	PLEASE DO NOT CONNECT THE PARKING LOTS FOR GENERAL TRAFFIC! This will become a cut-through and turn the park into a car-infested nightmare. This is a park and should not be sullied any further by automobiles, especially commuters and shortcut drivers during all hours. People can already cut through here in their vehicle - it's called a bicycle and is a great way to get from Annandale to Springfield. The county does not need one more road for cars, one more lane for cars, one more parking spot for cars, and one more car connection. Thank you for your valuable work!
2/17/2018	Lake Management Survey	With respect to the "Lake Management Alternatives", I support either Option E or F. Continuing to dredge the lake is an unnecessary expense for the County. Additionally, the environmental impact is damaging long term. Let's take steps to go away from maintaining a dam and return to a more natural state.  With respect to the "Connectivity Alternatives", under no circumstances do I support additional vehicular traffic cutting through the park. Lake Accotink is a park and this park should continue providing a natural setting for visitors to enjoy, not for easing cross-park travel for motorized vehicles. In addition, this will increase cut-through traffic in the surrounding neighborhoods as more people become aware of this new route. I am a heavy user of the park and I come here to enjoy the peace and tranquility of nature and not to have to be on guard watching out for drivers hitting me while walking, not to be bombarded with more vehicle exhaust, and not to have to hear loud engine noise from drivers. Fairfax County (as well as the state and country) prioritize the ease of driving over all other modes of transportation. Instead of making it incredibly convenient for driving, make the park easy to access and travel through by bike or by foot. To reiterate, I do not support general traffic connection of the upper and lower parking lots.
2/18/2018	Lake Management Survey	The only option in this list I support is Option C, although I think significant changes can be made to reduce cost and impact to surrounding neighborhoods.
2/18/2018	Lake Management Survey	Restoring the natural flow of water and eliminating the sediment problem is a good option. Keeping a managed lake is worth the extra cost for its recreational value.
2/18/2018	Lake Management Survey	Option Ç is the only option presented that keeps the sediment from becoming someones elses problem. Many people seem to want Option C. The county should expand on ideas for removing the sediment from the area. It doesnt seem like there has been much thought given.
2/19/2018	Parkmail	As a life time resident of the county, I hate the thought of losing the lake.  As a resident of the Ravensworth Farm Community for 30+ years, I hate the thought of losing the lake.  Also as a resident of Ravensworth Farm, I have seen the lake dredged several times. Over the years, I have seen the lake shrink in size.  I have participated in many cleanups at the lake. It is amazing to see what gets washed into the lake.  I have listened to the options presented. I would love to see dredging continued periodically, but I realize that financially that is improbable.  Therefore, I support the sediment forebay solution that includes the smaller lake.
2/19/2018	Lake Management Survey	As a life time resident of the county, I hate the thought of losing the lake.  As a resident of the Ravensworth Farm Community for 30+ years, I hate the thought of losing the lake.  Also as a resident of Ravensworth Farm, I have seen the lake dredged several times. Over the years, I have seen the lake shrink in size.  I have participated in many cleanups at the lake. It is amazing to see what gets washed into the lake.  I have listened to the options presented. I would love to see dredging continued periodically, but I realize that financially that is improbable.  Therefore, I support the sediment forebay solution that includes the smaller lake.
2/19/2018	Lake Management Survey	I can also see the benefit of connecting the two for emergency access only.
2/19/2018	Lake Management Survey	Do not do any "improvements" to Lake Accotink. My family has used this park for the past 30 years and in trying to improve what is naturally there will destroy the quiet, multi-use trails that are enjoyed daily. As nice as the new entrance is, there should be no need to improve the trail (which has been done in all parts by paving), they should be left as nature designed them as well as the configuration of the lake.

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2/20/2018 Parkmail First and foremost I want to say that I ADORE Lake Accotink the way it currently is! I have been going there on a weekly basis for the past 3 years, although I have been visiting there since I was about 3 and I am 30 now.

I enjoy our park the way it is now, but I do know that improvements need to be made.

I have spoken with a lot of my fellow Accotinkers while out on the paths and quite a few of us enjoy the dam side of the lake, because it does not have a concrete path (with the exception of the path that goes over the railroad). So if you are thinking of upgrading the dam side with concrete paths, please don't! We would much prefer that you fill in the dips and holes in the path with a more natural substance that won't hurt our knees!

While Option "C" ANNUAL DREDGING WITH FOREBAY is more costly, I think it will benefit the community as well as the wildlife in the park much more than the other options in the long run. I do not want to take the lake away from the wildlife that has truly been benefiting from it. I don't think we would have our local eagle family if the lake wasn't there.

As for the connection of the parking lots I think is a terrible idea.

It would make way for a lot of through traffic that has no intention of visiting the park and just going through to get around traffic on the main roads.

I have seen this happen many times in my own neighborhood. People try to avoid traffic on Edsal Rd and try to cut through my neighborhood to get to Backlick Rd.

It creates a dangerous situation in my neighborhood because people are in a hurry and frustrated with traffic, so they run stop signs and speed.

I do not want to see this happen and watch Accotink park become an unsafe place. There is already a problem with people speeding over the speed bumps and tailgating people who do drive the speed limit.

Maybe you can connect the parking lots on the weekends for lost partygoers, but differently should not be a regular thing.

Thank you for reading my concerns and comments

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2/20/2018	Lake Management Survey	The lake is the wonder of Fairfax county and needs to be preserved.
2/21/2018	Lake Management Survey	I have very fond memories as a teenager of Lake Accotink. It would be a horrible mistake for the habitat and lake to be totally dredged and not filled; not only for the wildlife but for blue zones. This sounds like a problem that's been going on for so many, many years and now the county is trying to hurry up and "fix it".
2/21/2018	Lake Management Survey	It is a waste of millions of tax dollars to fight nature's inevitable course. I understand people appreciate the lake for recreation so I think it is a wise compromise for the county to work with nature to retain a smaller lake.  In addition to costing too much money, Options B and C also propose an absurd amount of truck traffic through our neighborhoods. I don't think the recreational value of a larger lake is worth the money or the inconvenience to residents.
2/21/2018	Lake Management Survey	1. Close call between options E and F. 2. My friends and I did not like recent asphaltting of another third of the trail. This only encourages more bikes and illegal motorized bicycles and motor scooters. Indeed, we would like to see all trails in the park composed of dirt or gravel. Bikes on the trail are hazardous to walkers, runners, dogwalkers and baby strollers.
2/21/2018	Lake Management Survey	1. Close call between options E and F. 2. My friends and I did not like recent asphaltting of another third of the trail. This only encourages more bikes and illegal motorized bicycles and motor scooters. Indeed, we would like to see all trails in the park composed of dirt or gravel. Bikes on the trail are hazardous to walkers, runners, dogwalkers and baby strollers.
2/21/2018	Lake Management Survey	I was disappointed that about a mile of the trail around the lake was recently paved over, detracting from the walking experience and the sense that one is in a wild and natural area.
2/21/2018	Lake Management Survey	It would seem that ANY alternative that involves 30-50 thousand trucks rolling through the North Springfield neighborhood has to be unacceptable. I suspect that this is known and understood by the planning staff, and these options are included primarily to present the appearance of looking at everything. This comment is not meant to be critical, just that there really doesn't seem to be any practical solution other than Option F.
2/22/2018	Lake Management Survey	The real problem is stormwater management upstream of the lake, and that's where more \$ needs to be invested. Procedures for stream restoration are too time consuming and cumbersome and need to be expedited.
2/22/2018	Lake Management Survey	Begin eliminating the upstream erosion in the watersheds feeding the lake that is caused by the stormwater runoff force coming out of culverts and road side ditches from county subdivision roads!! A Burke Centre Resident.

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Comments Regarding the Future of Lake Accotink

February 22, 2018

To: Fairfax County Park Authority, Supervisor John Cook, Supervisor Jeff McKay, Supervisor Pat Herrity, Supervisor Sharon Bulova

The Friends of Accotink Creek wish to “wade into” the Lake Accotink Park Master Plan by offering our comments on the topics of Connectivity and Lake Sustainability:

Connectivity

We are neutral on connecting upper and lower parking areas, but caution that measures should be included to provide substantial discouragement to through traffic, such as limiting connectivity to weekends only or imposing a significant detour. Of course, we also stress the exigency of no net loss of tree cover or habitat for any such project.

Connectivity brings up again the possibility of moving much or all of the lower parking lot. The parking lot at the dam has been damaged more than once in recent years by tropical storm flooding. Relocating all or part of the parking lot out of the floodplain could avoid future damage and allow revegetation of the riparian corridor. One possibility for relocation is exchanging the locations of this parking lot and the upper field near the Heming Ave entrance.

Lake Sustainability

None of the options is ideal. Retaining the lake is a substantial financial cost to taxpayers and leaves a barrier to wildlife movement. Breaching the dam would reconnect the stream for wildlife movement, but would incur the loss of the community value of the lake, sacrifice the wetlands at the head of the lake, and certainly cause the extinction of freshwater mussels in Accotink Creek.

The 2015 Daguna Consulting freshwater mussel survey concludes the sediment capture by the dam is the only factor maintaining alive the last population of freshwater mussels in Accotink Creek. Any solution to the future of Lake Accotink must avoid the extinction of this population.

Any solution which retains the dam should study practical means of providing for fish passage.

An additional outside-the-box option suggested by a member of the public at the January 22, 2018, public meeting was to install the forebay far upstream, under the power lines at Braddock Road. This is an option worth exploring and offers these possibilities:

- Avoid the issue of neighborhood truck traffic during dredging
- Avoid a new truck road through forested areas
- Reduce sediment buildup in the lake
- Avoid wetland destruction
- Would be eligible for MS4 points
- Could take the place of stormwater ponds proposed for the Braddock Road widening project, saving both taxpayer funds and tree cover.

We urge study of this option, in cooperation with the FCDOT Braddock Road Project and the Stormwater Planning Division of DPWES.

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In the analysis of alternatives for Lake Accotink, any choice that alters or removes the lake must account for the cost of alternate means of capturing the same amount of sediment as the lake now does. The current draft TMDL Report states on page 3-37 :

o “This 39% reduction from baseline conditions is lower than the reductions necessary for Long Branch and Upper Accotink Creek due to the 47% trapping efficiency of Lake Accotink that was discussed in Section 3.4.7. TMDL allocations in Chapter 4 are based on these assumptions. While the TMDL does not prescribe that the Lake will be maintained exactly as has been done in the past, it does assume that there will be an average sediment removal of 47% provided by dredging, or an equivalent management practice”(7)

Three cents of every Fairfax County property tax dollar are currently dedicated to stormwater controls and these funds are tapped to maintain other lakes. For technical reasons that are hard to understand, the same funds are not available for Lake Accotink, despite the significant sediment capture. There must be some solution to overcome the objections to use of stormwater funds for this lake which is obviously functioning as a stormwater facility in all but name. It is beyond our degree of expertise to know where that solution lies, but we urge that it be pursued at the highest levels of county government.

Many citizens have suggested rail transport for disposal of dredged sediment. Although the obstacles to such a solution are clear, we urge further exploration of this option. Road-rail trucks offer a possible means of accessing the railway.

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2/23/2018 c	Parkmail	<p>“The effort to abate the degradation of urban stormwater runoff and streambank erosion in Accotink Creek must be as comprehensive and integrated as the process of degradation.”* Fairfax County’s Accotink Creek Watershed Management Plan includes a number of projects that will reduce sediment entering the lake. Among these are Area Wide Drainage Improvements such as AC9302 and AC9303 to address stormwater runoff at its source. Acceleration of these projects in the immediate vicinity and then proceeding upstream should be incorporated into plans for the lake’s future. The costs to both the taxpayer and the environment constitute an emergency calling for an “Accotink Creek Project” as driven as the Apollo Moon Project. Public meetings and supporting materials should point out the example of Lake Barcroft, where residents voted to create a Watershed Improvement District, paying additional amounts each year to support their lake. Those who care about Lake Accotink and live nearby may be sufficiently motivated to explore this option. Less directly connected to the topic of lake sustainability, but nonetheless critical, is designation of Lake Accotink Park as a natural resource park like Huntley Meadows, consistent with the park mission described in the Fairfax County Comprehensive Plan, the FCPA Natural Resource Management Plan, and the General Management Plan for Lake Accotink Park. Nature is not gone from Lake Accotink Park, but needs our dedicated conservatorship to nurture its health.</p> <p>Friends of Accotink Creek : : <a href="http://www.accotink.org">www.accotink.org</a> : :</p> <p>"Dominion over nature is a gift which has been given us yoked to the trust for its preservation."</p> <p>P.S. - If the dam is breached, we really must make an event of it and employ explosives.</p> <p>* Managing Urban Stream Sedimentation Accotink Creek, Virginia p. 20</p>
2/23/2018	Lake Management Survey	Please keep this beautiful place beautiful!
2/24/2018	Lake Management Survey	There need to be traffic calming measure to ensure the safety of walkers and bikers.
2/24/2018	Lake Management Survey	Very opposed to option C and E.
2/25/2018	Parkmail	<p>Hi! My name is Ryleigh Lucier. I am an 11 year old girl who has grown up close to Lake Accotink. I was sad to hear they want to take the lake away and let the park turn into marsh lands. I love to see the animals when I go to see the lake. I worry for the animals that depend on the lake. Like the eagles that have nests near the lake. If the lake gets taken away they will have no fish to feed on when the lake is gone. Many frogs and turtles also depend on Lake Accotink to live. I also feel we need to work as a community to protect the future of Lake Accotink. I am afraid that if it becomes an unstaffed park, like Brookfield, then gangs will cause problems and it will no longer be a safe and fun place for families to enjoy. We need more community parks, not less. I hope that the lake will not be taken away.</p>
2/25/2018	Lake Management Survey	Dredge and put the sediment along the shore to shrink the lake.
2/25/2018	Lake Management Survey	<p>We have lived close to Lake Accotink since 1980. My grown children have many special memories of times spent there. My grandchildren are now enjoying it as well. We are hoping a plan can be reached that will save the Lake. We feel the impact to the animals that live in it and around it would be devastating if the lake were to be drained.</p>

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2/26/2018 a Parkmail

I have been following the options presented to sustain Lake Accotink Park. I realize that most options are very expensive and may not even be feasible. I strongly support maintaining the lake since it is the most important amenity in the park.

I have developed a short proposal for a more economic and efficient option that I wish to submit for consideration and I have attached it to this email.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

#### OPTION FOR LAKE ACCOTINK

After reading the reports and viewing the slide presentation on 6 options to a sustainability plan for Accotink Park, I provide some comments and a possible new option.

#### COMMENTS

I am totally in support of option "B" to maintain the lake. The park provides many amenities for park users but the crown jewel of amenities is the lake, not only for the thousands of park users but for the waterfowl who use it as a rest area for migratory birds as well as a nesting and sustainment area for everything from eagles, geese, ducks, to turtles that I have seen.

#### PROPOSED OPTION

All options that are listed in the report that mention dredging is referring to Hydraulic Dredging. This is a common method on waterways but is very inefficient. For dredge material to be moved, the dredge must vacuum silt and sand with large amounts of water to be able to pump through pipe to the spoils area. Roughly speaking, the dredge material is 80% water and 20% silt and sand. Once the dredged material is dumped, natural dewatering (gravity) occurs leaving dry sand and silt.

The report estimates 350,000 cubic yards would be required to be dredged and goes on to say it would fill RFK stadium around 150 feet high. But, once 80% of the water drains out, the height would be significantly lower.

I am proposing an option for consideration.

- Open the flood gate at the end of the dam and drain the lake during the summer months leaving the original creek to flow.
- Once drained, do not dredge but excavate using back hoes, bulldozers and trucks.
- The silt and sand will dry quickly, especially behind the dam and it appears that it may be 20 feet high directly behind the dam and easy to excavate.
- The dry silt and sand is roughly 90% solids and 10% water at most.
- The trucks would not go out of the park
- o The old Orange and Alexandria Train bed is now the lake trail and there are many cut and fill areas with steep banks immediately to the side of the trail dropping 40-50 feet.
- o Excavating 70,000 yds<sup>3</sup> of solids is about 7,000 truckloads.
- o The trucks filled with mostly dry sand and silt would dump their loads less than a mile from the dam and return to the site to be refilled. Short cycle time for transport.

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2/26/2018 b Parkmail

- Since the sand and soil is not hydraulic, you would be reducing the volume from 350,000 yds<sup>3</sup> to approx. 70,000 yds<sup>3</sup>
- The backhoes, bulldozers and trucks would work back from the dam covering the 55-acre lake where the sand and silt is only a few feet deep.
- Once the excavation is completed, the equipment is easily removed, and the flood gate is closed to refill the lake naturally.

#### ADVANTAGES

1. This option is more economic - Excavation is much cheaper than dredging
2. Safer – Trucks or dredge lines do not have to go through neighborhoods, highways etc.
3. Environmental – The spoils from the lake would be returned to the same area that produced them. Report states most of the spoils are due to bank erosion from the runs and streams that feed into the creek.
4. Quality – excavating allows a much thorough process and removal. This significantly extends the cleaning cycle from 15 years to 20 or more years.
5. Efficient – It doesn't make sense to dredge 350,000 yds<sup>3</sup> that is 80% water when you can excavate 70,000 yds<sup>3</sup> of solid sand and silt.

#### EXPECTED ISSUE

I suspect that the environmental planners/regulators will dismiss this option by saying you can't use 4-5 acres of parkland to dump sand and silt. I can only appeal to common sense. Doesn't it make more sense to dump 70,000 yds<sup>3</sup> of dry silt and sand in an area that generated it then to dredge 350,000 yds<sup>3</sup>, pump or truck some long distance through populated areas only to dump on some other area?? Isn't it better to keep our own dirt in our own backyard? Can the regulations be modified?

Bernard Murphy  
8902 Judson Ct  
Burke, VA 22015  
703-912-6338

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2/26/2018 Parkmail

Andi asked that I forward this post along to you as she stated she will be away from the office for a few days. Any insight into the Lake Accotink planning process besides what is already available on the county website would be very much appreciated.

Shane

Andi Goldoff Dorlester in your post in one of the other threads you mention that there is no existing proposal for the park just options for the lake. We also believe that to be correct. We believe that's part of the problem at hand. In previous meetings it has been stated the park master plan cannot move forward without a decision on the water first. The problem lies in the fact that Supervisor John Cook has said that the amenities will vastly differ based on the option chosen. So indirectly you are asking the community to decide on a master plan without knowing what the options are. It would have been nice if the PA had worked on a few master plans for doing nothing, a lake, and a creek. That way we can all make an informed decision. My other question is why wasn't any of the lake saving options factored into the 2016 County Parks needs list. That looked to be the PA plan for the next 10 years. There was roughly 30 million budgeted for Lake Accotink and Lake Fairfax budgeted for 2021 to 2026. Too late and too underfunded to do anything about dredging the lake. Did the county not view it as a need in 2016?

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2/26/2018 Parkmail

I have read through the Lake Accotink Management Meeting from January 22, 2018. From what I see, Option C, the forebay creation and dredging, is the best option. It costs less than the straight dredging over 30 years and the lake is maintained. One question I have is what happens after 30 years. It seems that we could need dredging the forebay after that with continued savings. I believe that Lake Accotink is a valuable recreational element for Fairfax County and should be preserved. I bought my home in West Springfield 2 years ago in part because of the location near this lake and I hope we can keep it in shape.

Another question I have is how does Fairfax County allocate funding between its man-made lakes. I imagine all of them need periodic dredging. How are these decisions made?

Finally, there was a question of extending the road to connect Highland Street and Hemming Avenue. I agree that access to the parking can be confusing if you don't know the area. My concern with this connection is that it will be used as a thoroughfare between the two neighborhoods and will negatively impact the park setting. The Heming Ave area of North Springfield is very cut-off with only two entrances. The new road is bound to be a shortcut to shopping, I-95 and Old Keene Mill Rd. If the road is only for emergency vehicles, it will stop it from being a cut-through, but also not solve the confusing parking situation. Do we need an emergency vehicle road?

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2/26/2018

Andi Goldoff Dorlester in your post in one of the other threads you mention that there is no existing proposal for the park just options for the lake. We also believe that to be correct. We believe that's part of the problem at hand. In previous meetings it has been stated the park master plan cannot move forward without a decision on the water first. The problem lies in the fact that Supervisor John Cook has said that the amenities will vastly differ based on the option chosen. So indirectly you are asking the community to decide on a master plan without knowing what the options are. It would have been nice if the PA had worked on a few master plans for doing nothing, a lake, and a creek. That way we can all make an informed decision. My other question is why wasn't any of the lake saving options factored into the 2016 County Parks needs list. That looked to be the PA plan for the next 10 years. There was roughly 30 million budgeted for Lake Accotink and Lake Fairfax budgeted for 2021 to 2026. Too late and too underfunded to do anything about dredging the lake. Did the county not view it as a need in 2016?

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2/27/2018	Lake Management Survey	See letter fm Friends of Accotink Creek where they propose closing the lower parking lot altogether and using another site. It makes sense.
		Also— hope to see more about out-of-the-box proposal to put the forebay closer to Braddock Rd with 'infrastructure' that permits dredging trucks access on/off at Braddock
2/27/2018	Lake Management Survey	To consider any option other than C would be horrible. Lake Accotink is a gem located in an otherwise busy and somewhat ugly area of Fairfax County. I regularly visit parks in Fairfax County and no other park (not even Burke Lake) compares to Lake Accotink in terms of wildlife diversity. It would be a shame to lose the ability to take my children to such a wonderful place. Please consider option C and save this amazing park.
2/28/2018	Parkmail	<p>Regarding the future plans for Lake Accotink, as a resident of nearby Kings Park, I strongly support Option C, which appears to be the only feasible way to preserve the lake in its current form. My family, friends, and I have enjoyed many happy memories at the lake during the 14+ years we have lived here, and we hope to continue to do so for years to come. One of many examples includes my son's first birthday party, when we rented a tented picnic area at Lake Accotink for over 50 guests who showed up despite pouring rain that day. Surprisingly, there are not many rental options in our area for a gathering of that size, particularly outdoors, even if one is lucky enough to be successful in securing a weekend reservation that requires months of advance planning.</p> <p>In addition, we have attended many events and outings at the lake with our children, including a lantern walk during the most recent Daylight Savings Time change, the summer free music nights (which out of town guests and family members have also attended with us), mini golf, Halloween events, random playground visits, and of course many walks along the trail. Before having children when I had more adult time free, my neighbors and I would walk the entire trail nearly every Saturday and Sunday. We did this even in the winter-- one particular snowy day in 19-degree weather that I recall resulted in a wonderful reward for our efforts-- seeing two beautiful bald eagles fly out of their nest and across the lake. This was my first time ever seeing a bald eagle in the wild, and it is a special memory, particularly living near our nation's capital and having the chance to tell my neighbor, who is originally from India, that it is our national bird. We have enjoyed many wildlife sightings-- deer, eagles, cardinals, blue jays, hawks, turtles sunning themselves on logs at the water's edge, frogs, ducks, geese, and a green tree snake (well, my friend from India didn't enjoy the snake quite as much, but I had a good laugh when it almost landed on her head).</p> <p>Beyond the trail and outdoor areas, the water in particular is my favorite part of Lake Accotink. We have enjoyed riding the boats from the marina, including dates with my husband renting a canoe and reminiscing about the times in college in Pennsylvania when we went canoeing. The benefits of having a body of water nearby are even more essential for people like me who commute to DC for work, providing a natural oasis in a metropolitan area. Whether for recreational activities or just a relaxing and peaceful outdoor setting, it is difficult to replicate the positive impact on health and wellbeing that is created by looking out at the water with its reflection of sun and sky. I don't think I'm alone in having felt a palpable reduction of stress simply by taking a few minutes to look at the water. Although it may be difficult to quantify such intangible benefits of living near the lake, it should not be discounted, and I believe that the expensive taxes we pay to live here warrant some expectation of being able to enjoy access to natural resources.</p>
2/28/2018	Parkmail	<p>Those are the personal reasons why I value Lake Accotink, and on a broader level, I would not want to see it disappear from an environmental impact perspective. The lake is important to the health of the Chesapeake Bay watershed, and we should do all we can to contribute to the quality of water there, as well as in our own neighborhood. My husband and I have always been cognizant of our actions with respect to the water, as the creek in our backyard feeds into Accotink Creek. For that reason, no matter how much I would love to look at a lush green lawn, we have never used pesticides or chemical sprays, fertilizers, etc. in our yard. Instead, we pull weeds by hand where we can and otherwise try not to worry about imperfections, use techniques such as dethatching, and grow organic vegetables. We are also concerned about the loss of habitat for the birds, fish, and other wildlife that would result from losing the lake. For all of those reasons, we support doing what is necessary to preserve Lake Accotink in its current state.</p> <p>Further, I should point out that this issue has not been so widely publicized that everyone with an interest in preserving the lake has been able to weigh in. Particularly for busy working parents, as many in this area are, it might not be on their radar. If not for my neighbor passing on the details of the ongoing conversation about the lake, I might not have heard about it. Thank you for your consideration, and please do all that is needed to preserve and improve Lake Accotink.</p>
2/28/2018	Lake Management Survey	This lake has the potential to be an absolute pearl for Fairfax County. It is a place I have enjoyed for decades - first with my children and now with my grandchildren. It is home to a wide variety of wildlife, including fish and turtles, nesting eagles, herons, egrets, hawks, owls, geese, ducks and other birds, as well as deer, rabbits and foxes. Use the exorbitant tax dollars we pay as Fairfax County residents to preserve this lake!
3/2/2018	Lake Management Survey	I would like to see either Option E or Option F implemented. They are the most financially and environmentally responsible options.
3/2/2018	Lake Management Survey	Lake Accotink is a defining feature of Springfield and a destination for those in the DC area. It must be preserved!
3/2/2018	Lake Management Survey	I could not find how big the current lake is to compare with the 20 acre size proposed in Option F. Option F seems like a good compromise. Retains a lake, provides additional trails, an enhanced environment for wildlife at a reduced annual cost and pretty much doing away with the affects of dredging.
3/3/2018	Lake Management Survey	<p>The forebay should not be in Lake Accotink since the annual dredging would be too disruptive to the wildlife (especially the bald eagles) and residential neighborhoods. I suggest moving the forebay further north to the Braddock Road area where trucks can have better access without going through residential neighborhoods.</p> <p>Connecting the two parking lots will create a cut-through from Hemming Avenue to the Highland Street area. I believe that this would generate too much unwanted traffic through the park. A better pedestrian connector would be nice.</p>
3/3/2018	Lake Management Survey	I vote for Option F. Option E is my second choice. Option E would restore the land closest to its original state, but retaining a smaller lake in Option F would probably be preferred by park visitors. Options A, B, and C are unsustainable.

3/3/2018	Lake Management Survey	<p>LAKE ACCOTINK PARK MASTER PLAN REVISION --WE'D LIKE TO HEAR YOUR OPINION!</p> <p>After reviewing the presentation and information boards that were shared with the community on January 22, 2018, please take a quick moment to let us know your preference for the management of Lake Accotink as well as the possibility of establishing a permanent vehicular connection between the two main parking areas at Lake Accotink Park.</p> <p>LAKE MANAGEMENT ALTERNATIVES -- In consideration of all the many factors involved, the option I would choose for Lake Accotink would be:</p> <p>Answer: Prefer Option C.</p> <p>Option A - No Management</p> <p>Option B - Continue current dredging approach</p> <p>Option C - Dredging with the addition of a forebay and smaller annual dredging operations</p> <p>Option D – Install "Beaver Dams" (This option has been removed from the voting as it will not provide any substantial improvement to Lake Accotink on its own. It may be utilized in combination with other management options.)</p> <p>Option E - Revert to a single stream channel</p> <p>Option F - Revert to a single stream channel but retain a smaller lake</p> <p>CONNECTIVITY ALTERNATIVES --In consideration of the many factors involved, my preference would be:</p> <p>Answer: Prefer NOT TO CONNECT the upper and lower parking lots for general traffic.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To CONNECT the upper and lower parking lots for general traffic</li> <li>- To NOT CONNECT the upper and lower parking lots for general traffic</li> <li>- To connect the upper and lower parking lots for EMERGENCY ACCESS ONLY</li> </ul> <p>1.The lake is an invaluable recreation resource and it would be a shame to lose its beauty from our environment.</p> <p>2.The lake also provides a required water quality function in that it traps sediment from flowing downstream, ultimately into the Chesapeake Bay. If this function is not provided via FCPA funding to dredge and preserve the lake and dam, the county will have to fund Water Quality improvements through general funds.</p> <p>- Is it possible that the county might be violating environmental water quality rules (State/Federal) by allowing sediment to flow downstream under all options other than B and C?</p> <p>3.It seems to make sense to preserve the lake for recreation and beauty and at the same time preserve water quality and pollution prevention.</p> <p>4. Another consideration is that the lake supports birds like American Bald Eagles (2 mating pairs are raising young in the park), Heron, and Egrets. Without the lake these birds would move elsewhere. It is my understanding</p>
3/3/2018	Lake Management Survey	Whatever is cheaper and most effective
3/4/2018	Lake Management Survey	<p>Do NOT connect the upper and lower parking lots.</p> <p>On busy days the lower lot is already busy enough with pedestrian and vehicular traffic.</p> <p>You will create massive bottlenecks in the lower parking lot and the entrance to the lower/upper lots if you try to connect the two.</p> <p>People need to walk more and use the County tax-paid for resources to find out how to get to each parking lot for their various purposes.</p>
3/4/2018	Lake Management Survey	I think the loss of then lake would be terrible for everyone I like going walks and bike rides around the lake ant I pretty sure others do to.
3/4/2018	Lake Management Survey	There are presently 4 waterfront parks in the county, and the needs for recreational facilities to preserve quality of life in the county will increase in the future. Lake Accotink Park is one of these important facilities. Once the lake is gone, the change will be permanent. Preserving the lake now is a reversible decision, which county residents can reconsider in the future. Removing the dam will cause significant sediment and flooding issues downstream, with attendant major costs that have not been considered in the present concept studies.
3/4/2018	Lake Management Survey	<p>Why wasn't there an option of forebays further upstream? This would allow trucks to haul from closer to Braddock Road and out of the neighborhoods. Also, in my opinion, not all the future costs of option's E and F are presented to make those options appear more palatable.</p> <p>Not related to the choices here, but people should be allowed to run up and down the damn hill. It is an excellent workout. If the county is concerned with erosion, consider paving a section, or putting in a rubber track like section, near the stairs. Last, running on pavement is detrimental to the knee joints. Any section that is paved, should have a soft dirt shoulder to prevent future medical costs.</p>
3/4/2018	Lake Management Survey	I've lived in the N. Springfield area for almost 20 years and have been visiting and walking at Lake Accotink even longer than that. The lake is nice but not worth the on-going expense of dredging and dam maintenance. I'd rather see that money spent on restoring the upstream portions of Accotink creek. Option F would be my second choice.
3/4/2018	Lake Management Survey	I opted for Option F, as a jogger, hiker, biker, nature photographer and birder at Accotink Park (which I utilize together with Wakefield), I would love to somehow see a version of a lake remain for the water fowl and birds that are currently there. I track the eagle's and their nest, and would hate to see them leave. I don't know for sure if the diminishment of the lake size would cause them to leave, but I know it's possible. That said, my second choice would be Option E, as I do believe that the area as nature intended it would probably the most viable and sustainable option. Clearly forward-thinking studies were not available when they constructed the dam in the 40s. This area off of the Potomac and Chesapeake is one of abundant wetlands and wildlife, and eagles "comeback" is showing in record numbers of nesting pairs all over this tri-state area. Accotink's eagle pair would simply move, were we to revert to the single stream channel, as nature originally had it. Accotink is one of my favorite parks to visit, and it is ever-changing and beautiful, so I am very thankful that it is part of our northern Virginia life!
3/4/2018	Lake Management Survey	Failing to keep the lake will impact the flora and fauna that depend on its ecosystem and will also adversely affect real estate values.

3/5/2018	Lake Management Survey	I think it's important to let the planners make a recommendation on this one. I don't have enough information.
3/5/2018	Lake Management Survey	Going with Option C gives us the ability to have everyone's voice heard with a fallback plan to Option F. Also please consider releasing current tallies of the votes in an effort to be more transparent.
3/5/2018	Lake Management Survey	It is my firm opinion that Option C is the ONLY viable option. That sediment must be dealt with. Constructing other measures to take care on all that sediment will cost more than the \$45M of Option C.
		The addition of forebays makes sense but it makes much more sense to place them well above the lake. Perhaps one at Little River Tpk and/or one or two at or near Braddock Rd. The forebay(s) needs to be more accessible.
		The pros and cons of connecting the lot balance in my opinion.
3/6/2018	Parkmail	My house is one in Ravensworth Farm. At one point I put it on the market because I had concerns about zoning for schools. After 2 weeks I pulled it off the market because I made a list of the pros of living here. Lake Accotinc was a huge reason I stayed and the neighborhood is full of people who care for each other and our Lake. Ravensworth Farm builds community and the Lake is a central connecting factor to how, where and why we are a GREAT place to live. Please help us keep the Lake.
		In one of the Washington Post articles they stated that there would be a way to pull the sediment from the bottom of lake with out needing to dredge as they had done previously. Was that a viable solution? Thank you for your attention and willingness to fight for our community.
3/6/2018	Lake Management Survey	did not have many problems last time it was done why not continue
3/6/2018	Lake Management Survey	Vehicular access poses a threat to pedestrians, cyclist, pets and children. Upper parking should be limited to emergency, disabled and pickup/drop off options. There should be an elevated crosswalk at the foot of the dam so pedestrians can cyclist can enjoy the outdoors after a rainy day without worrying about crossing the stream.
		I challenge the committee to explore a combination of forebay with hydroelectric capabilities to power lake facilities
3/7/2018	Lake Management Survey	My children Ave I spent so much time at this beautiful park while they were growing up. This beautiful piece of nature accessible in an urban environment is such a precious resource. Children need places like this more and more as green spaces are disappearing and recess and playtime is shrinking. Don't try to Disneyfy it - keep it in as wild and pristine shape as possible!
3/7/2018	Lake Management Survey	I spent much of my youth at Lake accotink including a summer working their in the marina, renting boats and giving tours. This lake is a part of Fairfax county history and has always been a cultural and social gathering point. It deserves a strong maintenance plan that will ensure we can affordably maintain the park for decades to come.
3/7/2018	Lake Management Survey	I would prefer to keep the lake as is – the effect a body of water has on your soul is so important – having the lake close is such a benefit that keeps us from having to travel far on the weekend to get that kind of R&R... Wildlife, water and wild flowers make such a difference in this suburban environment we live in
3/7/2018	Lake Management Survey	My family and I love Lake Accotink. I grew up in the Cardinal Forest neighborhood and am now raising a family about a mile from my childhood home. My 3 year old daughter and I will walk from our home on Forrester all the way to the playground at the marina. On weekends, my dad and I will go for a run around the lake, pushing my daughter in the running stroller. The forest & the trail system are truly the critical points of Lake Accotink for us. The lake itself is not essential to our experience. Nearly every time we walk past the marina, my daughter asks me why the water is so dirty. I see significantly more people on the trails than I ever see using the lake itself for recreation. I think that Option E, with the single stream channel and the reclaimed forest land, will be the most nature-friendly, cost-effective means of pleasing the local public.
3/7/2018	Lake Management Survey	Having the Lake is a very high benefit to myself and the entire county. The residents living near the lake use it on a regular basis and to think of it disappearing is unthinkable! Think of how many places would love to have a lake like ours nearby. I would hope that you see the intrinsic value is well beyond the dollar cost to protect it. Save the Lake!
3/8/2018	Lake Management Survey	I've lived in the Crestwood neighborhood for the last 20 years and have enjoyed Lake Accotink and the surrounding trails. I think we need a lake to remain. I would settle for a smaller lake that can be maintained well, instead of the currently large cesspool we have now. I wouldn't do anything to encourage more people to go to lake accotink. The lake and surrounding trails are clogged enough.
3/10/2018	Parkmail	Hello. I favor Option F. Restoring to original streambed with a smaller lake. Not only is this one of the least expensive viable options, but restoration of the stream would improve wildlife habitat and water quality and offer better bird watching and other nature opportunities. Also, keeping a small lake lets you keep the name of the Park.
3/12/2018	Lake Management Survey	Lower and Upper parking lots do NOT need to be connected. The park has been adequately functional, even for emergency personnel since opening.
		My family and I have been residents of Ravensworth Farm since 1965 - the lake is one of the reasons we have stayed in the neighborhood.
3/13/2018	Lake Management Survey	Please save Lake Accotink Park so we may continue connecting with nature and for future generations to savor the earth.
3/13/2018	Lake Management Survey	In terms of Lake Management alternatives, I could go for Option E as well. My family lives in Dunn Loring. We usually visit Lake Accotink maybe once over other month and enjoy walking or biking along the path around the lake.
3/14/2018	Lake Management Survey	The options and their estimated effects/costs were developed by people with insufficient experience, and who had the temerity not to ask for advice from those who deal with these problems on a daily basis. Barcroft serves an adjacent watershed, and has dealt with dredging for years, at reasonably low cost, and with low adverse impacts on the community. Same for Reston. Barcroft has higher utilization of its beaches, fishing and boating than Accotink, yet dredging never seems to be a complaint. And no one seems to notice the truck traffic. There are simple reasons why.
		Options that would eliminate the recreational uses of Accotink Lake are red herrings. They are stupid and unnecessary, and they hurt our tax-payers. They simply reflect staffwork on steroids. Let's all take a deep gulp of fresh air. Please consider remedies that maintain the lake, and incorporate five-day-a-week dredging to keep pace with sedimentation. Let's not spend a lot of money on a new approach that might not work.

3/14/2018	Lake Management Survey	Lake Accotink is an artificial lake with a depth of 4'. The way I look at it, it is just crazy to talk about spending \$45M trying to get the lake back to where it was decades ago. The number of trucks carrying sediment away and spewing air pollution would be astronomical. Where is the sediment going to go? A landfill? We don't need any more landfills. Let nature take its course. It will spend be a nature preserve. It will still be available for bald eagles and other wildlife. I write this as a person who regularly walks his dogs around the lake.
3/14/2018	Lake Management Survey	I am going to fill this form out again for my elderly mother who goes to Lake Accotink with me every week, sometimes twice a week. Please Save the Lake. It is an essential part of our life. There are not that many places where you can drive your car up to a lake and park. My mother is 93 and does not get out of the car. We go here regularly in all seasons. It calms and soothes our souls. It gives us peace. Please do not take away our peace.
3/17/2018	Lake Management Survey	Option C seems the most reasonable option, in that it preserves the lake's role as a "water filter" en route to the Potomac River and the Chesapeake Bay while reducing the recurring costs of dredging. This will help to maintain the environmental conditions which are crucial for the varied wildlife in the area, not to mention for the thousands of county citizens living in neighborhoods near the lake.
3/17/2018	Lake Management Survey	Please do not allow the lake to silt up. A healthy Lake Accotink is too important to all of the birds and other wildlife that make this area (and areas that the creek feeds) an attractive, pleasant, and healthy place for us Fairfax County residents (and taxpayers!) to live.
		Thank you!
3/21/2018	Lake Management Survey	No wet lands pleaseeeeeee, everithing just no wet lands, i am sick living in the swamp
3/21/2018	Lake Management Survey	I think fixing lake ACCOTINK will drive crime into the park. I also don't think we should have to fund something that even the people around it don't take care of it. There has been an increase in crime in the park, and spending the money now will later have to be spent again. The park does nothing for revenue just for emotional gain. I think it needs to go.
3/22/2018	Lake Management Survey	
3/23/2018	Lake Management Survey	I would like to see the additional use of the "Beaver Dams" type system, to slow the water entering the lake and hopefully dropping its sediment in wetlands that will, over time, move progressively farther upstream from the lake. A beaver dam or two, slightly upstream from the lake seems like it would make a big difference in the location of the sediment deposit, keeping more of it out of the lake, and possibly slowing the required maintenance dredging and saving money, while maintaining the lake in more or less its current form.
3/23/2018	Lake Management Survey	I go to the park with my kids and would like them to have the freedom to play without worrying of additional traffic. I have a real problem with allowing traffic access here. Roads are everywhere. I go to the park to escape cars.
3/24/2018	Lake Management Survey	I realize that park maintenance is expensive, but it is worth it to keep the County a great place to work and live.
		The two parking lots need not be connected if it the smaller lot was increased in size. But if it stays at its current capacity, it would be nice for those trying to use it to drive through to the larger lot instead of being forced to drive completely around and through an industrial park to gain access!
3/25/2018	Lake Management Survey	I am 31 years old, and have been a lifelong resident of Ravensworth and North Springfield. My father is also a lifelong resident of North Springfield. Our opinion is to please keep the lake going! Seeing the lake dried up forever would be tragic, and it has great historic value as well!
3/26/2018	Lake Management Survey	I think restoring Accotink Creek to a single stream channel with a smaller lake fed by a restored Flag Run makes the most sense. However, I don't understand the costs and assumptions for Options E and F. Removal of any portion of the dam would require excavation of sediment back to a natural grade unless you plan to flush the sediment downstream which would be extremely detrimental to the rest of the watershed.
		Instead of taking the dam out completely, I would recommend evaluating a partial removal - maybe down to 10 feet above the natural stream grade and using deposited sediment to build up a natural A type or A+ type channel design to meet the stream grade. This would require less sediment removal.
		Additionally, I would recommend considering the addition of a forebay for dredging in your smaller designed side channel lake because even with the restoration of Flag Run, there will be natural sediment transport which will eventually get trapped behind the dam and we will be evaluating this 30 years from now.
		Finally, please do not consider the use of "beaver dams" upstream of the lake. These are proven to be ineffective restoration methods that will cause further deterioration of the surrounding riparian buffer. Additionally, please encourage your contractors to use more natural stream channel design. Several of the restorations throughout the county (e.g., Wakefield Park) overuse large stone features which are extremely expensive. I would suggest using on site materials like toe-wood, and ensuring that a bankfull benches be established to encourage natural floodplain restoration.
		All this being said, I am encouraged by the county's desire to repair damaged stream channels. I think additional funding should be established to repair the entire Accotink stream valley.
		Thanks for the opportunity to comment.
3/27/2018	Parkmail	I've been a resident of Fairfax county my whole life and moved to Kings Park 5 years ago because of the great schools, location, and proximity to Lake Accotink. We walk the lake and use the trails all four seasons. Please save this wonderful and vital part of our community.
3/27/2018	Lake Management Survey	I love the lake. I use it every summer to take my kids fishing and kayaking. We hike and bike around the lake all year long. Save the lake! It is such a beautiful asset to our community. I know of other people who came from the far corners of our county to use the trails around the lake.
3/27/2018	Lake Management Survey	
3/28/2018	Lake Management Survey	I grew up off of Carrleigh Parkway and have countless memories of growing up in the park. The park is an invaluable resource to the Springfield community however, the lake, as is, is unsustainable. I feel that costs associated with continual maintenance dredging are way too high for county residents to shoulder and so I favor returning the stream to its' natural condition in a way that can still be used by area residents and native animal species.
		Thank you.

3/29/2018	Lake Management Survey	If I had to pick a second option, I would choice option "C"
3/29/2018	Lake Management Survey	An idea: If the lake is dredged, then the soils that are removed could go to Arlington National Cemetery (ANC) for their Southern Expansion Project, which will require a significant amount of fill to re-sculpt the land adjacent to the Air Force Memorial and Columbia Pike. This could be a collaborative effort that saves both the ANC and Fairfax County funds for obtaining and depositing of fill dirt respectively.
3/29/2018	Lake Management Survey	My wife and I (age 70) bike a lot. It would be nice to have a more gradual connection of the parking lots as means of connecting the cross-county trail coming from Springfield to the neighborhoods off of Braddock. I doubt that neighbors on either side would see significant cut-through traffic, because the roads are slow.
3/29/2018	Lake Management Survey	Please keep Lake Accotink open because a lot of people including myself go there a lot to enjoy our time and see nature. My friends and I go everyday to ride bikes in the trail and explore. Lake accotink is the closest park for our community in Springfield, Va. Closing Lake Accotink will really hurt others because there were many memories there. Lake Accotink is a beautiful place to be at. Lake Accotink is fun and peaceful. Please don't close Lake Accotink. Thank you.
3/30/2018	Lake Management Survey	Perhaps I am missing something. As I understand it, the current approach requires dredging (and therefore trucks through the community) only every 15 or more years at a cost of only \$29,000 (plus dam maintenance). I guess I don't understand why we are considering anything else.
3/30/2018	Lake Management Survey	The only point I see in connecting is to allow handicapped folks in North Springfield to be able to reach the park proper w/o having to drive all the way to Highland St. This I can support, otherwise, I don't see the point.
3/31/2018	Lake Management Survey	For the Steam Bed recommendation, I am equal regards Option F and Option E. The original stream bed needs to be honored (go with nature, don't fight it), and the lake dredging has become cost-prohibitive. I've started walking the Accotink Loop (a wonderful trail now), and see a wonderfully diverse population accessing and enjoying the trail, and the lake. While I would be okay losing the lake, I believe the families are enjoying the sandy beach, the fishing and the water activities. For this reason, a smaller, cost-effective lake footprint may be wise to keep.
4/2/2018	Lake Management Survey	I have lived adjacent to Lake Accotink Park since 2008, and walk around it frequently. I donate annually to FCPA because of it. Its presence is a major reason I chose to live in the area. I generally find the trail and marina area quite busy, at least on weekends when I do my walks. Given what I perceive to be healthy usage, I think the park is well worth maintaining, even if at significant cost. With regards to the maintenance options under consideration, I would prefer B (preservation of current lake), but F (smaller lake) might be OK as well, if it is TRULY the case that this park as-is is unreasonably expensive compared to others administered by FCPA. The E option (no lake) seems to me very short-sighted: if you lose the lake I suspect that eventually you'll lose the park. I doubt the marina area would remain a popular destination without the lake's aesthetic appeal and recreation options, and if attendance there disappears developers will use that as an argument to eat away at the park itself. I also dislike option D, which I suspect would damage the most natural-looking areas above the lake. (The wildflowers in those areas are beautiful at this time of year!)
		Lastly, let me take the opportunity to compliment those who maintain the trails. I've always been impressed at how well the trails are maintained, and how quickly tree falls are dealt with, even (eventually) on secondary trails.
4/2/2018	Lake Management Survey	Presently the park has little to no self sustaining revenues. Management is a waste of county resources, accountability, and oversight of current management time and resources is minimal to none and proves to continue to be a waste of budget resources. The return on investment is non-existent. Maintenance costs of maintaining a man made lake is proving that engineering nature on a budget will lead to chronic long term fiscal problems. As I understand it the Park Authority should be preserving Virginia's historic natural, and cultural history, not reengineering all natural stream into a lake.
4/2/2018	Lake Management Survey	Cheapest option to maintain current status of the lake is best, so option B.
4/3/2018	Lake Management Survey	While we love the park as it currently is, we typically use it for the trails vs. water activities. Due to the cost of maintaining the current lake, this seems like the best compromise and keeps the lake feature for those that partake in the boating and fishing.
4/4/2018	Lake Management Survey	It is good to have open water in Fairfax county for both recreation and wildlife. There isn't much per capita.
4/4/2018	Lake Management Survey	Option F seems like a win-win solution - retaining recreational value of a lake while enabling Accotink Creek to revert to a more natural configuration. Two aspects of that appear to be downplayed, however - construction (incl. truck) activity during the transition and need for avoiding siltation of the smaller lake. However, all in all, I favor Option F. There's also a long term cost advantage compared with Options B & C. In my opinion, connectivity is desirable, but not essential.
4/5/2018	Lake Management Survey	I strongly feel the lake should be kept up. My family and visit that park regularly and have walked around the lake hundreds and hundreds of times. I will be voting or not voting for local officials based on the upkeep of the lake.
4/5/2018	Lake Management Survey	This park is a treasure for our neighborhood.
4/5/2018	Lake Management Survey	I grew up next to Lake Accotink and now as a resident of North Springfield, I would like nothing more than to have my children experience the same joy.
4/5/2018	Lake Management Survey	I also think we need to prevent silt from traveling downstream to our watershed, and should consider the upstream work on other streams as well as considering working with the Braddock Road widening and connecting of Danbury forest road with Wakefield chapel road and creating forbays, or marsh areas around there.
4/5/2018	Lake Management Survey	I think the cost of the dredging options over time is too high to be justified. I wholeheartedly believe that the stream bank can be restored in a way that allows for recreational enjoyment while maximizing ecological value. I prefer option E because it restores the original channel most closely, however Option F is equally acceptable to me if retaining a lake is important to the surrounding community.
4/6/2018	Lake Management Survey	Connecting the parking lots for general traffic use will create excessive cut through traffic that will adversely affect not only the park, but the communities on each side of the lake.
4/6/2018	Lake Management Survey	Please explain to me why the County is doing so much for Lake Accotink and is IGNORING the fact that the Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors are poised to approve a special exemption permit as the first step to allow the building of an ASPHALT PLANT at the corner of Rt. 395, Edsall, and Industrial?

4/6/2018	Lake Management Survey	<p>Never pave another trail in Fairfax county again. Ever.          Stop paving over nature.          Desired trails maintain themselves through foot traffic. Trails not maintained by foot traffic are not needed.          There is nothing wrong with dirt trails, roads, and parking lots. You will find traffic moves a lot slower as well.</p> <p>And don't use that god-forsaken plastic grid you used on the north side of the Brookfield Pond. What a disaster! Just leave the trails as nature intends!</p> <p>There is never a need to "create" a trail. People and animals create trails where they are needed.</p>
4/7/2018	Lake Management Survey	Do not abandon a full sized lake. Options B or C acceptable.
4/7/2018	Lake Management Survey	I favor option C. I would also like to propose the addition of semi regular street sweeping in the Lake Accortink watershed. This would help prevent some run off, especially road salt/sand and cigarette butts, from making its way to the lake.
4/7/2018	Lake Management Survey	<p>Ideally I would like to see street sweeping county wide. Anywhere you go in the county the intersections are full of cigarette butts and road sand. It looks like crap</p> <p>I think F is a great idea. It is cost effective both for the establishment and the annual maintenance. Also, there won't be trucks spoiling the quality of life for community residents. F preserves a lake and helps the Chesapeake Bay fish species by eliminating the dam.</p> <p>F looks like the best of both worlds.</p>
4/7/2018	Lake Management Survey	For much of its history as a lake, Lake Accotink has been too polluted to swim in. The accumulation of sediment has also been an on going problem. The county has spent and will continue to spend millions every year just to maintain a lake for paddle boats, canoeing, and fishing. The lake is dirty, trash accumulates along the shore, and is quite an eye sore for anyone visiting the park. The lake should be completely removed and the park returned to a single stream. This option provides the best environmental solution, restores the area to its natural state, and best use of county tax dollars by greatly reducing long term maintenance costs. People will still be able to enjoy great trails and a beautiful stream along with the carousel and shelters for cookouts without the dirty, smelly, polluted lake.
4/8/2018	Lake Management Survey	If Option E or F were chosen, where would the sediment now captured by the lake come to rest? What would be the costs of managing the sediment at this new location? FAQ question 4 answer is insufficient. The spoils removal disruption to the community is not as bad as one can imagine by reading the display board. My family lives next to the entrance to Lakeside Park. The recent spoils removal from Lake Royal was noticeable but not disruptive.
4/8/2018	Lake Management Survey	At the first meeting I spoke for an ecological approach to managing the park. The "Best and Wisest" use of the parkland would be to restore the native ecosystem to the extent possible offering an opportunity for citizens of all ages--not just special interests--to enjoy the peace and serenity of the nature. The best example of this type of park in Fairfax County is Huntley Meadows. A determination of whether the impoundment would follow based on the best ecological alternative. The timeframe would also depend on the alternative that provides the best opportunity for restoring the native ecosystem which could take decades.
4/12/2018	EMAIL	Let the lake revert to its original stream.
4/12/2018	Parkmail	It would be very nice to have a concert venue or amphitheater like the one at Mason District Park. Make easy for folks to sit and listen to music during Braddock Nights concerts.
4/15/2018	Lake Management Survey	It is not cost effective to sustain a Lake. Restoring the site to a natural stream valley will maintain the recreation uses and improve the health of the stream including opening more miles of stream above the dam to migratory fish. This is also the least cost alternative now and for future generations.
4/17/2018	Lake Management Survey	If it will become a swamp, that is not a bad thing. Swamps support many types of wildlife.
4/18/2018	Lake Management Survey	Connecting the entrances makes sense, but I do have concerns about pedestrian/bicycle safety. The connection needs to be designed in a manner that ensures that speeds will be kept to a minimum, pedestrian and bicycle routes are highly visible and that pedestrian and bicycle traffic is a priority over vehicle access.
4/18/2018	Lake Management Survey	I support Option F. I hope to learn more about the potential benefits to native flora and fauna, and to the Potomac Watershed, of this option. Please help to educate those that comment about their desire to retain the lake in "the current, natural state" -- what about a dam and man-made lake is natural?
4/20/2018	Lake Management Survey	I don't want my tax dollars to be spent to save a man-made lake that is basically already lost. The amount of dredging is appalling. I'm in favor of letting nature take her course.
4/22/2018	Lake Management Survey	Lake Accotink needs to be maintained as a recreational area in the eastern part of Fairfax County. It is an important resource for outdoor exercise and enjoyment for those in the older section of the county. Central to Lake Accotink is the maintenance of the lake as it currently is configured.
4/23/2018	Lake Management Survey	Let nature take it's course, then remove the dam,
4/24/2018	Lake Management Survey	Email is not to be used for public
4/24/2018	Lake Management Survey	Lake Accotink is a vital ecosystem that should be preserved.
4/24/2018	Lake Management Survey	Use the successful Burke Lake park model. Charge admission to outsiders and maintain police/park ranger presence to keep the park a safe place for Fairfax residents.
4/25/2018	Lake Management Survey	This is such an important topic! Please listen to our pleas!

4/26/2018	Lake Management Survey	The lake is so important to our community. The lake attracts families all over our community, people fish and enjoying boating here Without our lake less families would be likely to come to the lake and this could change the "feel" and atmosphere of our park. Many of the children's camps that are held at Lake Accotink would not continue if the lake was not here. We need to continue to teach our children about preserving nature and learning to enjoy it. The lake is what brought my family to this neighborhood. Also, without the lake the fauna would change in the area and this would impact the balance of nature in the park. Has anyone looked at the impact on the Chesapeake Bay this would have as well? Not continuing to dredge is not what's best for our community. Please preserve this place we call home in North Springfield.
4/26/2018	Lake Management Survey	Thanks for the work your team has done to present the options clearly. I really appreciate the images of other similarly sized lakes throughout the County so you can visualize the reduced lake footprint.
4/26/2018	Lake Management Survey	We have loved having Lake Accotink and the trail network as of an invaluable recreational option since having relocated here in the late 1970s. Please do whatever is necessary to maintain this wonderful community asset, and even enhance the features of the park.
4/26/2018	Lake Management Survey	The lake is a big benefit for Fairfax.
4/27/2018	Lake Management Survey	My second choice would be to use plan C
4/27/2018	Lake Management Survey	We own property that backs to the Lake. We are very saddened that for as much property and personal tax that we pay in Fairfax County there is not enough money to take care of our parks. The Audrey Moore Rec Center, which I use on a daily basis, is also in desperate need of upgrades. I just can't imagine where all the money this county requires of its citizens to pay is going. It's really baffling. We wish we could keep the Lake the way it is, but we opted for the other option above because we feel like the political will to save the Lake as-is is lacking. Really, a tragedy. We are in the foreign service and have lived in countries around the world where there are no parks and no money for recreation centers and other such infrastructure. We have seen first hand how such actions really affect the morale of individuals and communities. It's too bad we seem headed down this same path. And that's not even the schools . . . and teacher salaries . . . and I could go on and on. Where is all the money going? ? ? ?
4/27/2018	Lake Management Survey	The lake needs to be preserved for nature, people & future generations.
4/27/2018	Lake Management Survey	Connecting the parking lots will allow gang and criminal activity to spread.
4/28/2018	Lake Management Survey	I go to Lake Accotink approximately 3-5 times per year (only in the summer) to kayak with my dogs. If the "lake" was full use, (i.e., had a beach and allowed people and pets to swim in it without fear of becoming sick), I would be more inclined to vote for spending the \$40 million + \$800k yearly options. But in fairness, the lake is too small to kayak or canoe regularly (compared to other locations in the area) and you can't swim or wade in the water because of fecal contamination. Remove the dam, return the land to a single stream, throw down some grass seed, and use the area for a frisbee golf course, picnic area, and/or some soccer/baseball fields.
4/28/2018	Lake Management Survey	Looking at the costs and weighing in the recreational usage of the lake and sentimental considerations, the option to maintain a lake albeit smaller, would help to maintain the recreational use of the lake on a smaller scale with a financially responsible plan looking forward. This option makes me sad at the partial loss of my childhood lake, but maintains the lake and the area for future kids to remember when they went to Lake Accotink.  Opening it for general traffic would change the traffic pattern in the neighborhoods surrounding the lake creating a cut-through that would not be good for the park or the communities. Controlled Emergency Access would be acceptable.
4/29/2018	Parkmail	Please rally communities to hold fundraising events with the goal of assisting in the cost to maintain Lake Accotink!!! I am very interested in saving this beautiful lake for the recreation (boats, bike/jogging trails) and tranquil space that it provides Springfield area residents!!
4/29/2018	Lake Management Survey	connect both parking lots with walking path on side.
4/30/2018	<b>COMMUNITY MEETING ON LAKE MANAGEMENT OPTIONS</b>	
4/30/2018	Parkmail	Everyone I know goes to, and deeply enjoys this park. The diversity of wildlife we get to experience by having a protected body of water is so unique in a suburban setting. I love seeing the water and particularly the eagles. I would vote to have the lake dredged on a schedule and maintain what I see as a treasure of Fairfax County.
4/30/2018	Lake Management Survey	Lake Accotink is an important community resource and should be preserved one way or the other
4/30/2018	Lake Management Survey	The upper and lower parking lots should NEVER be connected for public use. If connected, Lake Accotink Park will be used as a short cut by commuters to connect traffic between Backlick Road and Braddock Road and flood more cut through traffic into both North Springfield and South Springfield neighborhoods. This increased traffic would also negatively impact the park, its visitors and wildlife.
4/30/2018	Lake Management Survey	The upper and lower parking lots should NEVER be connected for general traffic. Doing so would allow the park roads to be used as a short cut leading to park roads being used as a general thoroughfare with a high volume of traffic that would result in a SEVERE NEGATIVE impact to park safety, wildlife, and maintenance of parking lots and park roads and this should NEVER be permitted.
5/1/2018	Parkmail	Where would the dredged sediment from the Accotink Park Master Plan go?  Where do dredged sediments from any Fairfax County lake/pond routinely go anyways?

5/1/2018	Parkmail	This is a comment on the Lake Accotink Master Plan Revision. I believe that the current dredging method that has been used in the past should be continued. The lake must remain as it has been. The lake is the heart of the park. I am a long time resident and the lake has always been very special to me. I can't imagine losing it. The lake provides beauty which engenders serenity. It supports an ecosystem that it is important for children to be able to be near and understand. People have fun boating and fishing there. Everyone enjoys the cardboard boat regatta. Every experience in the park, the picnics, the concerts, the walks, is enhanced because it is taking place near the lake. The lake provides so many different types of recreation for this community that would not exist without the lake.
5/1/2018	Lake Management Survey	Everyone enjoys the lake. Leave it alone and continue periodic dredging for sustainment;t purposes
5/1/2018	Lake Management Survey	My second choice is option E, revert to original stream.
5/1/2018	Lake Management Survey	My voter name is lucina G Kaufmann Let the lake fill with sediment. All of that water is robbing the land of trees - valuable trees that make oxygen to protect our planet from the biggest danger on the whole planet - too much water covered land. You can't hug water like you can hug a tree.
5/2/2018 a	Parkmail	Thank you for hosting the community meeting this past Monday.  Once again, however, I think the presentations were lacking a "big picture" perspective, or as one community member expressed it, a systems engineering approach. The most glaring evidence for this is the fact that this project is presented under the auspices of the Park Authority when the underlying problem, the problem that is the only reason we are even having these meetings is water quality and more specifically sedimentation of Lake Accotink.  So my first question is why isn't the Maintenance and Stormwater Management Division of the Department of Public Works and Environmental Services in charge of the project, especially since we already pay a stormwater service tax precisely for the Division to deal with issues like reducing the impact of runoff and dam safety?  My second question, after noticing the tax is apparently only for residential property, is how much money do commercial properties contribute to stormwater management, especially relative to their contribution to runoff and erosion?  My third question is when is the public going to start seeing estimates of the total costs for each option that include such costs for meeting TMDL requirements and environmental impact studies for disturbing the bald eagle habitat, not just estimates for hauling sediment and dam maintenance? It would be helpful to see these costs compared to other county projects, like the cost to install a traffic light offered at the meeting on Monday.  And my fourth question is what are the engineering estimates on the effectiveness of a fore-bay? Given the lake only removes about half of the sediment from the water that passes through it, I suspect fore-bays that are much smaller than the lake itself will hardly be effective, not likely to appreciably extend the time between major dredging, and therefore not worth any additional cost.  Thank you in advance for your answers.



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5/2/2018 b Parkmail

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5/2/2018 c Parkmail

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5/3/2018	Lake Management Survey	We love taking kids to the park. We will be very sad if it closes.
5/4/2018	Lake Management Survey	Sediment issues will have to be addressed in all options. I choose option C because controlling the sediment should be done in a proactive way, not a reactive way. The streams coming into the lake on the north side should have priority in the stream stabilization plan. The housing developments and communities south of the lake were established with the dependency of Lake Accotink in mind to control sediment issues. I don't want to be looking at constantly cleaning up and paying for the sediment messes created elsewhere. Getting rid of Lake Accotink will cause the sediment problem to move from one place to others downstream.
5/4/2018	Lake Management Survey	I attended the April 30th meeting and felt that certain costs were not accounted for including potential loss of revenue from the lake (Options A and E) and stormwater treatment costs due to additional sediment discharged into the Chesapeake Bay (Options A, E and F). These costs should be included in order for people to make an informed decision.  Lake Accotink is a great resource for the community and should be preserved. It also provides great benefits downstream in terms of the health of the Bay.
5/4/2018	Lake Management Survey	Option C appears to be most cost effective.
5/4/2018	Lake Management Survey	Save the lake!
5/4/2018	Lake Management Survey	Lake Accotink truly is a neighborhood gem. So many memories have been made there and I really hope that will continue long into the future.
5/4/2018	Lake Management Survey	Fairfax County needs to finance the needed dredging and upkeep of this wetland treasure.
5/6/2018	Lake Management Survey	I believe we must save Lake Accotink with what seems to be the best available option, which is 'C'. When I consider the life balancing and health and wellness benefits of Lake Accotink, and the countless hours I alone have spent there, there really is no question about what an invaluable asset this is to the residents of this county. Then, if one looks at what must be billions of visitor hours since Lake Accotink park opened in 1940, it would be a terrible loss to no longer have it. When I was working my pros and cons list some years ago about moving to NOVA/DC area, I sadly checked my 'con' box as I was sure I was moving to a true cement jungle. I am happy to say, I was completely wrong about that.  Also, I will gladly volunteer to contribute to saving this wonderful wild place.
5/7/2018	Parkmail	I live in Springfield and I'd like to see the Dredging with the Addition of a Forebay, allowing for smaller, yearly dredges option. I currently go to Royal Lake Park and Burke Lake for fishing but I would like to have my local park available for fishing too. We also use Lake Accotink playground and walking trails often as well. Good luck with the decision process!
5/7/2018	Lake Management Survey	I think this would become a traffic cut through if made public

5/7/2018	Lake Management Survey	The communities around Lake Accotink are older and developed. To change Lake Accotink would be very detrimental to the area as it is a recreational area used and enjoyed by these communities.
5/8/2018	Lake Management Survey	We love Lake Accotink! My family has enjoyed many hours walking the trails and perusing the lake for many years. Both children have had summer camps through the Parks and Rec system at the lake; they look forward to it every year. We even had a birthday party there, and everyone, including families not from the immediate area, not only enjoyed themselves, but had a high opinion of the lake and activities offered there. Cub Scouts are there all the time. The lake was even featured in Ranger Rick magazine, highlighting the cardboard boat races as part of Springfield Days. This is a wonderful spot in the county; I am happy to pay county taxes for our park system in general and Lake Accotink specifically. Keeping it functioning properly is money well spent.
5/8/2018	Lake Management Survey	I really enjoy walking around the lake! It makes living here so much more enjoyable.
5/8/2018	Lake Management Survey	If you are worried by no revenue why turn the park into mini amusement area for families or even allow a bar and grill so people and families can eat by the water?
5/9/2018	Parkmail	Good morning! Having grown up on Long Pine Drive in Springfield, I spent a good portion of my youth enjoying Lake Accotink and am thus interested in the choices the County is faced with regarding the lake's future. Before Heming Avenue was extended there was a fire break which ran behind our house (at 7525) all the way to the park's upper parking lot; it was an easy walk for me and my four brothers and I dare say I made that trip hundreds of times before heading off to UVa more than 40 years ago.  As a taxpayer now living in Annandale, I'm sensitive to the rather significant costs associated with some of the choices and so I'm leaning towards lower-cost options which nonetheless preserve as much utility of the Park as feasible. Perhaps I've missed it, but what I've yet to see is information regarding the usage levels of the park itself as well as the lake. Certainly the shelters get used as do the other amenities such as the carousel, but do you have any insights into the use of the lake itself? I imagine that boat rentals would be a fair proxy of that, but perhaps there are others... What has been the trend over the past several years? Steady? Declining? Increasing? To me, that would be a key data point in determining which choice to implement.
5/9/2018	Parkmail	A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE PRESERVATION OF LAKE ACCOTINK AND LAKE ACCOTINK PARK Agreed to March 7, 2018 WHEREAS the Fairfax County Park Authority is seeking public input on its proposed Options A – F for a revision to the Lake Accotink Park Master Plan as proposed at a January 22, 2018 community meeting; and WHEREAS Lake Accotink Park has been a vital and desirable recreational destination for Fairfax County residents in the Braddock, Lee, and Mason Magisterial Districts since 1960; and WHEREAS Lake Accotink is an amenity that increases the attractiveness of the North Springfield, Ravensworth Farm, Danbury Forrest, Kings Park, and Crestwood's Springfield residential communities to potential homebuyers; and WHEREAS the McLaren-Sargent Pavilion is named after North Springfield resident Chet McLaren and, therefore, has a direct connection to the community service efforts of the North Springfield; and WHEREAS the priorities of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors states, "Fairfax County... will continue to take a lead in initiatives... to preserve and protect open space for our residents to enjoy;" and WHEREAS the state mission of the Fairfax County Park Authority is "to set aside public spaces...to guarantee that these resources will be available to both present and future generations;" and WHEREAS there is strong community support for Lake Accotink and Lake Accotink Park to be preserved in as much of its current form as possible; and NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the North Springfield Civic Association board of directors, and its membership concurring, opposes any dramatic reduction to the geographic footprint of Lake Accotink, because of the adverse impact it would have on the recreational activities available to Lake Accotink Park patrons. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the North Springfield Civic Association board of directors, and its membership concurring, encourages the Fairfax County Park Authority and Fairfax Board of Supervisors to consider appropriate funding sources for this capital improvement project that does not require the raising of the real estate tax or the reallocation of financial resources away from programs providing direct service to residential communities including but not limited to defunding of the enforcement of the grass ordinance.
5/9/2018	Lake Management Survey	I live close to Lake Accotink and recreate in the park on a weekly basis. I would like to see the lake maintained through dredging, using option C. Surely better options for the impact of the sediment trucking can be further developed.
5/9/2018	Lake Management Survey	I'd also like to add more bathrooms. It is impossible for a disabled person to use the upper level pavilion bathroom and the marine since bathroom is often unavailable.
5/10/2018	Parkmail	LAKE ACCOTINK RESOLUTION WHEREAS, Lake Accotink has served for decades as an aquatic recreation, verdant wildlife refuge, and treasured communal asset for residents of and visitors to Northern Virginia, WHEREAS, the dredge efforts of the 1960s, 1984, and 2007 have satisfactorily addressed the problems of the accumulation of sediment, WHEREAS, the Fairfax County Park Authority has outlined several potential futures for the lake, WHEREAS, the Cardinal Forest Condominium Unit Owners Association (CFUOA) is the oldest and most populous community consisting of 1,050 homes adjacent to Lake Accotink Park, with a robust economic, environmental, and moral interest in its future, WHEREAS, the CFUOA granted an easement of approximately four (4) acres of land to Fairfax County for the specific purpose of providing public access to Lake Accotink Park from Carrleigh Parkway for West Springfield residents from Cardinal Forest as well as the adjacent communities of Charlestown, Westview Hills and West Springfield Village, WHEREAS, the Fairfax County Park Authority has proposed various master plan options for the lake, and invited public comment, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Directors for Cardinal Forest Condominium Unit Owners Association that Lake Accotink be preserved in its recognizable form (Options "B" or "C").
5/10/2018	Lake Management Survey	Revert to a single channel stream with hiking and biking trails and promote public use and understanding of watersheds and streams, how they work naturally and how important they are to the environment and ecosystems. Spend at least some of the money that would otherwise be spent dredging on researching the causes of and reversing the rapidly increasing rate of upstream erosion that is causing this problem in the first place.
5/11/2018	Lake Management Survey	Please preserve this marvelous county resource.
5/11/2018	Lake Management Survey	Fairfax county can do better in land management. Allowing development so close to parks and other resources is part of the issue. Best compromise at this point is to keep the lake with least fiscal impact.

5/11/2018	Lake Management Survey	Save Lake Accotink!
5/11/2018	Lake Management Survey	Please do everything you can to save this beautiful lake!
5/12/2018	Lake Management Survey	This lake means so much to the physical and mental health of so many citizens. When my dad told me we were moving g here so he could be assigned to the Pentagon, the first thing he mentioned was the lake. This was in the early 1970s. May it last until 2970!
5/12/2018	Lake Management Survey	Please save Lake Accotink in it's current state!
5/12/2018	Lake Management Survey	We need to save this Lake! Our county Is beginning to look like one big parking lot! We need a place to unwind and enjoy nature!
		My husband and I both went to high school here - had three sons who went through the county schools! We have six grandchildren. Our family has made Lake Accotink a part of our family memories!
		Please save our Lake!!!!
5/14/2018	Parkmail	<p>I support a variation on Option F – with caveats. I support this option because it will retain some benefits of the current open-water reservoir, including recreation and aesthetics and possibly some of the habitat (e.g., for the nesting eagle pair, beavers, waterfowl, possibly turtles).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Dam removal must be done properly, carefully so as to avoid both sedimentation and scouring problems downstream. It is a major problem that much of the work to achieve proper protection of Accotink Creek downstream of the dam will fall to agencies other than the Park Authority. A decision to implement Option E therefore must be endorsed by such responsible agencies as Fairfax Department of Public Works and Environmental Services, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District.</li> <li>2) Scouring was not mentioned by any officials during the public meeting on 1 May. I wish to see evidence that scouring threats are being addressed. Scouring could occur upstream of the current lake also as water flow speeds up.</li> <li>3) The cost of implementing effective programs to control down-stream sedimentation was estimated during the 1 May public meeting at \$80 million – although this was said to be “a guess”. The cost estimate must be clarified and incorporated into the description of “options” under consideration. At present, Options E and F are portrayed inaccurately because they exclude the costs of sediment and scouring remediation. In addition, the “hard” estimate must be made official before the project can proceed – and, again, it must be recognized that these costs must be accepted in the budget of appropriate county, state, and federal agencies.</li> <li>4) I have a long history of analyzing programs intended to prevent invasion by non-native plants. I am very skeptical about the likelihood of successfully “sculpting” the existing mix of silt and mud and – especially – establishing sufficient native vegetation to hold the new stream banks in place.</li> <li>5) I strongly urge the Board of Supervisors to empower the Fairfax Department of Public Works and Environmental Services to become more active and more effective in up-stream efforts to contain erosion and sediment movement, perhaps by installing small-scale “beaver dams”. Erosion and sediment movement are severe problems throughout Fairfax County. It will be challenging for the Department to undertake an expanded effort upstream in the Accotink watershed and in other watersheds at the same time as it must manage changes to Accotink Creek downstream from the removed dam, but it must try.</li> <li>6) I dispute statements that Option F will provide “additional” wildlife viewing opportunities. That option will result in more flood-plain forest (after revegetation takes hold) – an ecosystem type already present along Accotink Creek. The changes will reduce the likelihood viewing wildlife associated with open water.</li> </ol>
5/14/2018	Lake Management Survey	<p>Whole Option C is the most expensive option up front, it provides the best long term result of any of the proposed options. If the forebay can be built in conjunction with the realignment of Danbury Forest Road, multiple projects can work together with potential cost savings for each.</p> <p>Please investigate the feasibility of pumping the dredged material to a holding ground near the quarry that was filled last time with the water being returned to the lake as the material is filtered out and can be hauled from an already industrial site as opposed to hauling by truck through residential neighborhoods.</p> <p>With thought and input there are always improved ways of managing projects!</p>
5/15/2018	Parkmail	We fully support the use of Option C for dredging Lake Accotink with a forebay upstream of the lake to remediate future sediment from entering and polluting the lake in the future. In addition, the final plan should also address any needed repairs to the dam. Any consideration for allowing the lake to silt should be discarded as it will only increase the disposal and cost issues downstream of the lake and could potentially damage the Potomac and Chesapeake Bay. The park authority should carefully consider all economic cost/benefit, environmental, and ecological issues in order to arrive at the most feasible plan in both protecting the future of the lake as well as how the existing sediment will be removed from the lake through the community including pumping of the sediment to Wakefield for its ultimate removal. In summary, the lake needs to be preserved for the good of the Fairfax County Community and future generations that will use and enjoy the lake.
5/15/2018	Email	<p>Hello Andrea -- I hope this finds you well.</p> <p>Can you share the current results of the Lake Accotink online planning survey at <a href="https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/planning-development/lakeaccotink">https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/planning-development/lakeaccotink</a></p> <p>Also, when will the comment summary from the April 30 meeting be available?</p>
5/16/2018	Lake Management Survey	Lake Accotink is a wonderful treasure in the midst of all the hustle and bustle. It needs to be preserved at all cost. The summer concert in the park could help raise some funds, all we need is a few big celebrities to get the ball rolling. Someone call Dave Grohl!

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5/17/2018 Parkmail

I am seeking information related to current inputs to the Lake Accotink Planning Survey located online at <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/planning-development/lakeaccotink>.

Specifically I am looking for the number of responses submitted for each of options A through F to the question of Lake Management Alternatives. If multiple records exist, I would prefer the most recent tally available. Please itemize in advance approximately how much this request will cost. My information can be found below. Please let me know of any other information necessary to process the request.

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5/17/2018 Lake Management Survey

My wife and I first moved to the area around Lake Accotink five years ago because we fell in love with the beauty of the park and the lake. We've since had two children and put down roots in this community, and love going for walks around the lake and enjoying the natural beauty, and we look forward to the day when they're old enough to enjoy boating on the lake as we do. Letting the lake be destroyed would be a disaster for the surrounding communities. We are not people who normally pay much attention to local politics, but a vote to let the lake be destroyed would be plenty to get us involved in order to help ensure anyone who makes such a decision no longer represents us in the county.

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5/17/2018 Lake Management Survey

Lake Accotink is one of the nature treasures of Fairfax County. Folks are drawn to live in the county because of access to all that the lake has to offer. I am one of them! Please do EVERYTHING possible to dredge the lake and keep it maintained.

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5/18/2018 Parkmail

I am writing to share Audubon Society of Northern Virginia's (ASNV) views on the Lake Accotink master plan and options for managing the lake. ASNV is unable to provide expert analysis of the engineering options proposed by Wetlands Studies and Solutions in their study for FCPA. However, we believe that whatever solution FCPA adopts should take into consideration the potential impact on natural resources in the Accotink Creek watershed. We have two principal recommendations: (1) Fairfax County should address the source of the sediment. (2) The Park Authority should conduct biological inventories or surveys of its properties to determine what natural resources are present and might be affected before making a decision on the future of the lake.

Address the Sediment's Source

The FCPA's plans do not address strategies to reduce the flows of sediment into Accotink Creek and Lake Accotink. We urge FCPA to work with the county and major property owners in the Accotink Creek watershed to address stormwater runoff, since that runoff will continue to adversely affect natural resources in Accotink Creek regardless of what solution FCPA adopts for the lake itself.

According to the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, Stressor Analysis Report for the Benthic Macroinvertebrate Impairments in Accotink Creek Watershed, Fairfax County, Virginia, the most probable stressors on Accotink Creek are sediment and chloride[TB1]. Both of those stressors are the direct result of insufficient mitigation of the impact of stormwater runoff.

Over 87 percent of the watershed draining to this creek consists of commercial, industrial, transportation or residential land. Impervious surface covers 28 percent of the watershed. Based on biological monitoring, Accotink Creek, both above and below Lake Accotink, is on Virginia's list of impaired waters because "they are not supporting their aquatic life use," reports DEQ. The report continues, "There is also solid evidence that hydromodification, habitat modification and sediment are adversely impacting the biota in all three waterbodies," further pointing to bank stability, sedimentation deposition, substrate variety, embeddedness and bank vegetation as problems. "There is ample evidence that in the mainstem of Accotink Creek and its tributaries, sediment is being transported and deposited in sufficient quantities to adversely impact the aquatic community." Stormwater runoff is a growing source of pollution into the Potomac River as confirmed by the Potomac Conservancy.

Reducing the amount of sediment flowing into Accotink Creek would help obviate the need to dredge the lake. In addition, if FCPA reduces the size of the lake or eliminates it, all the sediment that is now deposited into the lake would flow downstream, adversely affecting the quality of water downstream of the lake and in the Potomac River. ASNV realizes that FCPA does not have the authority to address stormwater runoff or sedimentation on all county and private properties, and that a comprehensive solution would require coordinated action by multiple property owners. We urge FCPA to work with other Fairfax County offices to develop a comprehensive plan to mitigate the adverse effects of stormwater runoff into Accotink Creek.

Understand Natural Resources Present

ASNV is concerned that there do not appear to be any biological surveys of the natural resources of the lake and other park habitats. Park Authority staff confirmed that for this project there are "no specific counts or data," "no running inventory, but bits of data," and that there are some observations such as deer browse.

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5/18/2018 Parkmail

The bird "inventory" posted on the FCPA website appears to be reports of birds on Cornell Lab's e-Bird website. While helpful, this is a list of birds seen and voluntarily reported, presumably correctly identified, but is not a comprehensive, systematic, scientifically-based survey. Nor does it provide information on the bird species' abundance, distribution, population trends or status, such as whether they are listed by the state or federal government as of conservation concern, threatened, endangered or another designation.

And that is just the birds. Lake Accotink and downstream Accotink Creek support many other plants and animals that will be affected by any decisions made regarding management of Lake Accotink. For example, The 2015 study by Daguna Consulting confirmed three native mussel species in Accotink Creek. Allowing more sediment to flow down the creek could imperil these mussels, as well as numerous other organisms in the creek. We commend the Friends of Accotink Creek for their work on the master plan and efforts to save the last population of freshwater mussels in Accotink Creek. Accotink Creek ultimately flows into the Potomac River into a section of the river that has been designated by the National Audubon Society as the Lower Potomac River Important Bird Area (IBA). This area includes one of the largest great blue heron colonies in the mid-Atlantic region, breeding bald eagles and ospreys and summer and winter areas for migrating bald eagles. The area supports breeding populations of neotropical migrants and serves as an important stopover area for birds migrating north and south. Decisions regarding the management of Lake Accotink will affect the IBA as well.

It is difficult to analyze arrive at a solution for the sedimentation problem in Lake Accotink without knowing what natural resources are present and how they will be affected by the various solutions under consideration. Understanding the Accotink Creek watershed's natural resources will help FCPA make an informed decision concerning the future of the lake that incorporates sound conservation decisions.

ASNV's Recommendations

In deciding on a solution, ASNV urges FCPA to take the following actions in connection with the approach that you select to address the problems in Lake Accotink:

- We recommend that FCPA work with other county agencies and private landowners to curb sediment flowing into Lake Accotink. FCPA and Fairfax County should support a strong sediment Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for the Accotink Creek Watershed.
- We strongly recommend that FCPA conduct biological inventories of existing natural resources in and around Lake Accotink, including downstream Accotink Creek, to better understand how FCPA management and development decisions affect those resources before making a final decision on the future of Lake Accotink.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments.

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5/18/2018	Parkmail	<p>The Friends of Accotink Creek wish to offer comments on the future of Lake Accotink, as currently under consideration as part of the Lake Accotink Park Master Plan revision.</p> <p>After many meetings and much community discussion, the environmental issues have been focused down to a choice between the benefits of stream reconnection by dam removal and the benefits of continued sediment capture by the dam.</p> <p>Until such time as erosion in Accotink Creek can be brought under control, sediment capture must be the imperative factor in considerations of stream ecosystem health.</p> <p>We advocate in particular for the survival of the last population of freshwater mussels in Accotink Creek, now kept alive only by the sediment capture effects of the dam.</p> <p>The Friends of Accotink Creek therefore endorse:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Retention of the existing Lake Accotink dam with addition of a sediment forebay</li> <li>Inclusion of passages for fish and eels in plans for the future of the dam</li> </ul>
5/19/2018	Lake Management Survey	My second choice would be option E.
5/19/2018	Lake Management Survey	I just found out that this is still an issue. Was Thomas recent dredging unsuccessful? And why?
5/20/2018	Lake Management Survey	Than it will turn into a cut through road.
5/20/2018	Lake Management Survey	<p>I grew up enjoying Lake Accotink back in the 1980's. Glad something is being done to review options.</p> <p>I revisited this spot after 25 years this past Saturday. It was nice to see some of the same ole joys of the lake / stream and some improvements (access to the creek). But, it is still plagued by the same ole things that make it not nice and would be very cheap to fix.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The simplest thing those that work there could do is simply cart out the limbs and other things that lay around in the water where the boats are and away from the fishing area. I think the same logs are still there from when I was a kid, drastically making the area look cheap. (Once a day)</li> <li>The same logs were hanging on the dam too when I was a kid. Pull them back and push them on a shore. (Once a month)</li> <li>Add some flowers / trees to the hill where the road goes up to the lake. It still looked, well, like nothing, as when I was a kid. (Annually)</li> </ol> <p>I love the trees and the picnic areas though. I love below the dam. And I wish I was into stream fishing like I am now. I would love to explore fishing for sunfish or whatever while wading the stream below the dam someday. That is a great resource and perfect place to teach kids to love to fish!</p>
5/21/2018	Parkmail	<p>My husband and I co-own a home in Cardinal Forest with our son. Every summer, as we visit, we have gloried in walking around the wonderful trail around the lake. We love to sit on "our" bench high above the lake and just feel the peace. The leafy greens of the natural trails calm our minds and offer us a wonderful respite from the noises of everyday life.</p> <p>We would like to express our sincere desire that the lake be maintained in a form recognizable to its historic significance. It means so much to the large neighborhoods that surround it and to other citizens of Fairfax County. Without it, I believe the neighborhoods might degrade pretty fast. The specialness would be gone. Please preserve this wonderful resource in Fairfax County.</p> <p>We endorse the thinking of the HOA letter reproduced below. Rhoda (and Lee) Royce</p>
5/21/2018	Lake Management Survey	After viewing the flooding at the dam this past weekend, it is apparent that no amount of dredging can keep up with the volume of sediment and debris that enters the lake. Best plan is to use resources to aggressively continue to improve upstream conditions with catch ponds and smaller overflow areas, while going forward with option "f" which will still allow canoeing/kayaking on the smaller lake and its tributaries and wetlands. Besides the high cost, the detrimental impact and disruption of dredging using heavy equipment, trucks and pumps cannot be understated.
5/21/2018	Lake Management Survey	Connection for general traffic will generate substantial through traffic.
5/21/2018	Lake Management Survey	Please keep the lake. In this day and age, we're almost never in a place where we can add in natural features like Lake Accotink into the environment. We must work hard to maintain the blessings of nature that we have in Fairfax County today so our children can also enjoy easy access to nature and the parks. Option C is the most sustainable option that takes into account the hidden costs of long-term maintenance and TMDL rules.
5/21/2018	Lake Management Survey	We love the lake. My son has done the Lakeside Fun Camp there for many years and it is one of his favorite camps.
5/21/2018	Lake Management Survey	My family and I have enjoyed the park for decades. Thank you for your efforts to keep this family friendly park and lake open for continued use by Fairfax County residents.
5/22/2018	Lake Management Survey	We live in and love our neighborhood on the lake. One of the reasons we decided to buy in this neighborhood was the lake, its access, and the trails surrounding it. Please save the lake.
5/22/2018	Lake Management Survey	Please return the lake to mother nature and make it a wetland.
5/22/2018	Lake Management Survey	Connecting the upper and lower lots for general traffic will convert Heming Avenue into a cut-through for Springfield traffic and will materially change Heming Avenue from a dead-end, quiet residential street into a busy thoroughfare. I will vigorously (and, if needed, legally) oppose this foolish plan that will materially alter the character of my neighborhood and decrease my property value, as well as threaten my safety and that of the children in the area. Also, given the amount of time staff has spent talking about truck traffic needed to dredge the lake, there has been no equal discussion of the car traffic that will result from joining the parking lots. I am very disturbed that the unelected staff appears to be pushing positions not supported by the public.
5/22/2018	Lake Management Survey	If you connect the north Springfield entrance with the central Springfield entrance it will just be a matter of time before commuters will start taking advantage of that cut through and avoiding Braddock & Backlick Roads during rush hour. This I'm afraid could lead to significant traffic through the park and a dangerous condition for those that are trying to enjoy what Lake Accotink has to offer.
5/22/2018	Lake Management Survey	Please save the lake. We have been enjoying it for 42 years. Thank you.

5/22/2018	Lake Management Survey	We strongly value the lake and the significant benefit that it brings to the community and the tax payers.
5/22/2018	Lake Management Survey	Connecting the two parking lots will turn the lots and connecting road into a "cut through" road for people travelling to or from Braddock Road.
5/23/2018	Lake Management Survey	I have been a resident of North Springfield for 25 years and expect my paid real estate taxes all these years to benefit me in ensuring that Lake Accotink continues to be fully maintained. I also expect my elected county officials aggressively support funding to maintain the lake.
5/23/2018	Lake Management Survey	Thank you for exploring options to keep Lake Accotink accessible and beautiful. We live very close to it and look forward to visiting it many time in the years to come
5/23/2018	Lake Management Survey	Thank you for offering the public forums for learning and discussion. With a decision so momentous, it's essential to hear lots of different people's arguments before coming down on one of the alternatives.We learned a lot from your information boards and presentations, and from the spirited discussions.
5/23/2018	Lake Management Survey	We love the lake. It was a factor in buying in the surrounding neighborhoods and is a frequent weekend and weekday activity. Please save the lake!
5/23/2018	Lake Management Survey	Save Lake Accotink
5/23/2018	Lake Management Survey	You try to frighten people by telling them the big dollar amount option C will cost and fail to tell them how much it will cost if nothing is done.
5/23/2018	Lake Management Survey	I feel it would endanger pedestrian traffic around the concession area if too many cars were traveling through to the different lots if I'm thinking about which lots you are considering. I think it's good that cars can pull up into the concession area as it accommodates handicapped persons better that way, but having cars driving through into the upper lot behind the pavilion on the hill would make me worry about safety, especially for small children who run amok in the park as it is.
5/23/2018	Lake Management Survey	Don't you dare close the park. We need more spaces like this not less.
5/23/2018	Lake Management Survey	Last time it was dredged there was very little done in the way sediment was contained, something different in how the run off is managed needs to be done so that we don't wast time and money on temporary fixes
5/23/2018	Lake Management Survey	I am very happy to see the county addressing this issue.
5/23/2018	Lake Management Survey	I would vote for option F in combination with option D. I am worried what removing the dam will do to the lakes and bays downstream. Seems like we are getting rid of a problem and sending it downstream. I would also like to include in the decision environmental justice- and will our actions upstream impact communities downstream? It seems as though a combo of D and F will help with the sediment upfront, while the stream and wetlands fill in and do their job, hopefully reducing any impact of the sediment downstream all while keeping a portion of the lake that everyone loves dearly. I don't think dredging the lake is a viable and sustainable option.
5/23/2018	Lake Management Survey	Thank you for the informative meeting recently. Clearly this issue demonstrates a great deal of community interest. I realize that the decision is by no means an easy one, due to costs, environmental considerations, county politics and many other factors; but I've come to believe that since mankind has already modified this landscape, we should continue to nourish it now. The park and the lake are a treasured local resource, if not a "jewel" of the county parks like Burke Lake. Death or dimunition of the lake will undermine our park permanently; and we need to nourish parks, not undercut them. I would support spending money to protect a Burke Lake; and I support spending money to protect this one. ... And now that the costs of downstream remediation are becoming more evident, the choice I hope will be an easier one. Thanks for your consideration.
5/23/2018	Lake Management Survey	Options a, b, and c are too expensive long term.
5/23/2018	Lake Management Survey	Although I chose option E, option F is also acceptable. Please let's not continue to fight against nature by attempting to maintain an artificial and ultimately unappealing lake. Thank you for all the efforts put forward on this project Beth DeCristofaro Live in Braddock district
5/24/2018	Parkmail	I reviewed the Master Plan in January or early February and provided comments. At that time I thought that Option F appeared to be the most sensible and most cost effective solution – a balance between preserving the lake and park and overall costs - and that was my recommendation.  However I attended 2 meetings sponsored by Supervisors Cook and McKay and attended by Supervisor Herrity in Feb and April. At those meetings and in your recent posted explanations/comments on the plan it is clear that the county will not be permitted to send additional sediment and silt down stream. The sediment captured by Lake Accotink must be dealt with regardless of what is done about the dam. Therefore the costs associated with options A, D, E, and F are understated and that some variation of Option B or Option C will most likely end up being the most cost effective. Happily these also preserve the existing lake and park which is a wonderful thing indeed. (As a personal note we have lived here for over 30 years and as a runner, biker, walker I have been in some part of the park at least once a week and generally at least twice a week over this entire time. It is a wonderful place.)  As President of the Charlestown Owner's Association (a community of 502 townhomes) bordered by Carrleigh Parkway and Forrester Blvd in West Springfield very near Lake Accotink I can tell you that many of our residents enjoy the Lake and Park and want the Park and Lake to remain as they exist today.  Thank you for your good work on this plan and for all of the public outreach that you have undertaken.
5/24/2018	Lake Management Survey	After careful consideration in balancing long term environmental and financial costs, this is a workable compromise in having part of the exisitng 'lake/reservoir' retained, but re-establishing natural flow of the creek.
5/24/2018	Lake Management Survey	My family loves Lake Accotink, and we have attended the Halloween events, and enjoyed the carousel, playground, hiking and boating for several years. It's a treasure. However, I do not agree with a major effort to preserve the man-made lake. I support continuing our current dredging activities. The money that we would put toward additional water efforts should either remain in tax-payer pockets (no bonds), or should be allocated to other areas of the Fairfax parks such as greater access to those with limited mobility. Information, in the form of boards around the park and online, as well as community outreach through talks to different age groups around water and why the water is subsiding should be included in the coming years. Understand the ebb and flow of waterways is a wonderful educational opportunity in and of itself.
5/24/2018	Lake Management Survey	COMMENT RE LAKE MANAGEMENT ALTERNATIVES: The possibility of forebays closer to Braddock Road sounds like an intriguing possibility. If more information were available at this time it's possible that I would vote for this alternative. I'm glad to learn that it's under consideration.



5/24/2018	Lake Management Survey	<p>I believe Lake Accotink should be preserved as it offers many benefits to the county. Not only does it serve as a reservoir and help filter out sediment, it is also a prime recreational area for many Fairfax residents.</p> <p>I typically go to the park about once a week and I often see families having cookouts or people interacting with the lake (even in the winter). Reducing/eliminating the lake is a bad option as it would change the very nature of the park, the which makes it special. If we change this lake, I think in time people would come to miss out on the many advantages it offers.</p>
5/24/2018	Lake Management Survey	<p>There are very few spaces by the marina.4-6? are handicapped spaces that are not occupied. The path from the Heming Ave parking lot is steep and difficult to use.Needs better access. Also difficult access to restroom on hill. Could this area be redesigned and all parking lots connected? Lots of parking by the dam but only one picnic table.I lived in N. Springfield from 1983-2000 and have always loved the view, but the silting/dredging has now been done several times and a more sustainable solution needs to be found.</p>
5/24/2018	Lake Management Survey	<p>I assume those entering from one location would not be exiting to a different location--the drive through option is not needed. If drive through is for general traffic there will be a tendency to drive through the park as a short cut rather than because the park is the primary destination. however emergencies should be accommodated.</p>
5/24/2018	Lake Management Survey	<p>Many in the community are experiencing a huge and sustained emotional response to changing the lake as we know it. As a Springfield native, owner of a home that backs up to Accotink Creek, and frequent user of the CCT and Lake Accotink, I understand the emotional ties. However, what we must realize is that Option F, single channel with smaller lake, will enhance Lake Accotink Park and not detract from it. I look forward to the restored stream, increased biodiversity, and smaller lake. (Please get rid of the pedal boats! They scare wildlife away, especially the turtles.) I'd love to see a boardwalk wetlands trail like the one at Huntley Meadows. Additionally, we should not increase the financial burden of the county in order because we are resistant to progress for the better. For the parking and roads, we should connect the upper and lower parking lots and install LOTS of speed bumps/tables to slow down vehicles and make the road uninviting for commuter cut-through traffic.</p>
5/24/2018	Lake Management Survey	<p>It's such a unique park and provides quality and inexpensive recreation and environmental learning opportunities to every resident regardless of income or other limiting factors it would be heartbreaking to lose it when we can surely save it and make it better.</p>
5/25/2018	a Parkmail	<p>I met in April with Ms. Hooper and Mr. Smith. I would like to provide additional comments for consideration as the Park Authority consider options for the Lake Accotink Master Plan Revision:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Floodplain and Flood Insurance Considerations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o For the options without the dam (Options E, and F) it would seem that the lack of flow attenuation would result in higher flows downstream of the lake which in turn would result in a wider 1% annual chance floodplain along Lake Accotink.</li> <li>o I would hope that the FCPA will or has considered the possibility of higher flows and their impact on the need for flood insurance for additional properties as a result of the dam being removed.</li> <li>o At the same time, a review of the FEMA Special Flood Hazard Area mapping finds that the 1% Annual Chance floodplain for Accotink Creek impacts areas of Fort Belvoir. I would hope that the FCPA will or has coordinated with the appropriate DoD office if the County's analysis finds that the floodplain will get wider on the Base.</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. TMDL Considerations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o While there is a need for stream restoration throughout the Accotink Creek watershed, I understand that eliminating Lake Accotink will result in the immediate need to restore the reach of Lake Accotink from the dam to Gunston Bay which will cost in the order of \$86 million. This value comes from the early April discussion with the FCPA and DPWES. Based on this the net cost benefit (over 35-years) for the various options is as follows. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☑ Option A -\$91.1 million</li> <li>☑ Option B -\$6.8 million</li> <li>☑ Option C +\$8.6 million</li> <li>☑ Option E -\$98.1 million</li> <li>☑ Option F -\$99.8 million</li> </ul> </li> <li>o Based on this ONLY Option C has a net positive benefit.</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. Valuing Resources <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Lake Accotink is a resource that need maintenance. If we let Lake Accotink fill up and turn into a wetland it will be a wetland and if in the future the County needs a lake it will not be able to dig back the Lake. Why loose this resource?</li> </ul> </li> </ol>

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5/25/2018 a Parkmail

As a resident of Fairfax County and frequent user of its recreational resources, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the current situation facing Lake Accotink. Having lived in Springfield for the better part of the last 27 years, I am quite familiar with the area and the lifestyle influence the Lake and the Park represent for the residents of the county. It is disappointing that we as residents, constituents, and representatives, have been forced into a challenging, time-sensitive campaign to support the sustainability of this awesome lake.

As a student at West Springfield High School, our athletic teams, along with those from Lake Braddock Secondary School and Annandale High School, benefitted immensely from the existence of the park. Lake Accotink provides a cornerstone for which the park attracts thousands of users from around the county. Despite running through the woods for miles in small groups, safety was never a question for kids here, and our track and cross country teams succeed at national levels because we could use the park's at daytime and near twilight hours in the winter months. Without the attraction of Lake Accotink, those trails become less traveled and riskier for teens and adults alike.

As an adult with children, I have moved back into the Ravensworth neighborhood because of the sense of community within the somewhat isolated development between Braddock Road, I-495, and Lake Accotink, but also because of what those three things represent: commuter convenience and leisure. My kids are not old enough yet to enjoy the park on their own, but have already taken to fishing, canoeing, and riding the trails. They also enjoy the playground and carousel amenities at the marina. They learn so much from the varied wildlife that resides in the park. My wife and I still run or ride the trails daily and still see thousands of others enjoying the Lake.

When the Corps built the Lake in the '40s, it was not intended for recreation. Also, when it was built in the '40s, Fairfax County was a sparsely populated stretch of old farms. 75 years later, Fairfax County has grown and developed around the existing Park and Lake, just as it has other resources, such as Burke Lake, Lake Fairfax, and Barcroft.

When confronted with the possibility of no longer having Lake Accotink last January, I sprung into the first real sense of civic duty in my life. My wife and I have been quite active through the Ravensworth Civic Association and Friends of Lake Accotink. Sure, some of the incentive is personal to my family, as my property value stands to take a significant hit if the Lake goes away, but also the family and leisure oriented draw to the neighborhood and school districts is also diminished. This is a big part of what draws people to our neighborhood, as well as Cardinal Forest and Kings Park: they feel safe and neighborly because you see people outside enjoying themselves.

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5/25/2018 b Parkmail

4. Forebays

o Forebays are needed to capture the sediment before it enters the lake. To avoid truck traffic in the Ravensworth Farm neighborhood a possibility might be to locate the forebays north of Braddock Road. Long Branch (a major source of sediment to Lake Accotink) can be rerouted to flow along the north side of Braddock Road to such forebays located near the powerline right of way. I admit that the powerline right of way is not an ideal location for a forebay but I think it is possible from an engineering perspective.

5. Option F

o While Option F (creek with small lake) may seem like a middle of the road compromise solution I beg to differ.

☒ Option F will not attenuate the flows during storms and result in higher flows and possibly significantly wider floodplains downstream. This in turn may have flood insurance impacts for County residents as well as impacting Fort Belvoir.

☒ Option F will require stream restoration from the dam to Gunston Bay to meet the Accotink Creek Local TMDL. This will cost approximately \$86 million as per DPWES.

I would like to reiterate my support for Option C. I realize that it involves a large investment to make it a viable lake but in the end I see this as Fairfax County investing in a resource that will pay dividends for the years to come.

Please contact me if you would like to discuss the above in additional detail.

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5/25/2018 b Parkmail

The meetings run by these groups and supported by Supervisor Cook and the Fairfax Park Authority have been ambitious, informative, but most of all passionate. County residents really care about finding a solution to "Save the Lake." We have realized that we are, indeed, on our own. The cost is daunting, and many possible allies, such as the State of Virginia and Chesapeake Watershed, aren't able to help. The Park Authority is already stretched too thin.

First and foremost, the county depends on the Lake and dam as they are right now for a few reasons. Friends of Lake Accotink have been quite critical of the dam removal as it destroys many ecological habitats that have evolved over the last 75 years. That dam is "natural" to the topography and environment. Secondly, the cost of improving transportation across Accotink Creek south of the existing dam will have to be considered, to include major commuter crossings at Old Keene Mill Road, Route 289, Route 286, Telegraph Road, and Route 1. In addition, other federal projects such as the realignment of the main gate of Fort Belvoir would be adversely impacted. Finally, many of the National Flood Insurance Program restrictions on the developments built south of the dam in in and around Zone A/AE/AO areas (flood prone based on 100 year probability) would have to be completely reclassified. The Accotink Creek watershed, particularly south of the dam, would have to be restudied, with potential floodway impacts where structures would have to be removed.

Of the proposed solutions from the Park Authority study, the only enduring solution that alleviates the need to dredge the lake is C. While people can quibble over why the Lake requires more frequent dredging, and this could be a geophysical and meteorological study for another time, the fact that it does means that the current dredging strategy is doomed to fail. Installing forebays upstream of the Lake reduces the burden on the Lake and provides a more convenient place to dredge. Integrating this project with the transportation project to widen Braddock Road is an opportunity almost too good to pass up. Our groups are motivated toward getting bonds up for a vote as soon as possible to coordinate efforts.

In addition, the long-term sustainability of the Lake depends on many things, but I feel that a couple of highlights can help prevent the main body of Lake Accotink from having to be dredged again in our lifetime.

- 1) Better education of residential property management as it pertains to run-off, particularly with regard to rain water capture and reuse.
- 2) More diligent and sustainable development and redevelopment practices within the Accotink watershed.
- 3) Establishment of an Accotink shoreline management task force that periodically addresses at risk vegetation and trees for removal (before they end up at the bottom of the dam) and replaces with more resilient coverage to curb erosion.

Nobody believes that keeping the Lake will be easy, and as a long time resident, I never knew how much I had taken Lake Accotink for granted. But many of the proposals set forth in the original Park Authority study are short-sighted and will result in the majority of the Accotink basin becoming a swamp. Even a smaller lake would still either require increasing periodic draining, or would quickly fill in and lose recreational value. Swamps cultivate invasive species, to include insects, which is both unhealthy and unappealing. Nobody wants a swamp in their backyard, and Accotink Swamp just does not have a good ring to it.

5/25/2018 Parkmail

We support the recommendations of the Friends of Lake Accotink for dealing with sediment accumulation issues:

Keep the current dam, but add a sediment forbay. Additionally, ensure that future plans for the dam includes passages for fish and eels.

5/25/2018 Lake Management Survey

It's OK the way it is.

5/25/2018 Lake Management Survey

The current lake should be maintained as is to conserve a valuable water asset that adds immeasurably to protecting and preserving the endangered natural environment in Northern Virginia. If money can be found for bike lanes and "modular roundabouts", then money can be found to protect the natural environment by continuing the current lake dredging regime that currently exists.

5/25/2018 Lake Management Survey

No intervention by Fairfax co. -

5/26/2018 Lake Management Survey

Lake Accotink is a beautiful place throughout the year for young and old. We hope you will do all you can to preserve it.

5/26/2018 Lake Management Survey

I strongly support saving the lake and believe, after reviewing the information, that this is the most cost-efficient and sustainable approach.

5/27/2018 Lake Management Survey

I think it is important to keep the lake in some form. I think it is the biggest attraction that draws people to the park and my favorite feature of the park. I live close by and visit multiple times a week.

5/27/2018 Lake Management Survey

Please pursue "Option C" - Dredging with the addition of a forebay and smaller annual dredging operations. Although this option represents the highest up front expense, it will provide the county the best long-term value because:

1. It preserves a park and lake that is a one of a kind in Fairfax County used annually by thousands of residents and visitors.
2. It preserves the livelihood of many small businesses in the vicinity of Lake Accotink park, which are the lifeblood of Fairfax County.
3. It is the only option which provides a meaningful solution to the sediment buildup issue which must be addressed. All other proposed solutions only "kick the can down the road" and addressing the growing sediment buildup must still be addressed in other ways if Option C is not pursued in this Lake Accotink management initiative. Option C provide the county the best value by both providing a solution for long-term lake preservation while also addressing the sediment issue which is a regional county crisis beyond just Lake Accotink.
4. It will preserve the housing values of hundreds, maybe thousands of homes that border Lake Accotink including Crestwood, Ravensworth, Kings Park and Cardinal Forest. Preserving housing values is in the best interest of Fairfax County, and is even more important as Fairfax has been unable to expand the commercial tax base. Failing to preserve Lake Accotink will lead to falling home values which will result in reduced revenues to Fairfax County.

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5/28/2018 a Parkmail

I assume that the purpose for Lake Accotink Park is unchanged from that in the 1993 Conceptual Development Plan and Project Implementation Plan; that is,

"A. Park Purpose

"The purpose of Lake Accotink Park is to:

- o preserve, protect, and restore natural resources, both terrestrial and aquatic.
- o preserve, protect, and restore cultural resources.
- o educate visitors about the existing natural and cultural resources, and how to protect them.
- o provide a variety of recreational opportunities for all County citizens.
- o generate revenue to support the operation, maintenance, and restoration of the resources and
- o generate revenue to support the operation, maintenance, and restoration of the resources and
- o generate revenue to support the operation, maintenance, and restoration of the resources and facilities."

At issue with the current park is the large average yearly cost of dredging to remove sediment and perform dam maintenance (~ 2,6M). There are advertised options for the park with cost savings (e.g., smaller lake, no lake). However, issues I see with these options are,

1. Fairfax County has other lake parks likely also with large dredging and dam maintenance costs. Open questions are,
  - Why the cost concerns seeming just for Accotink Lake Park? Is there something unique concerning Accotink sediment and dam?
2. Shouldn't Fairfax County have a master plan for all of its lake parks? Shouldn't the plan have guidelines wrt the number of lake parks per 10,000 people, geographic distribution, objective for average distance between lake parks, typical lake size for number of residents who live within 10 miles of a park? Naively turning Accotink Lake into a stream-only park (one option being examined) may violate general County planning and disadvantage County residents near Lake Accotink.
3. Costs for two stream-based options do not seem to include estimates for required sediment capture.

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5/28/2018 b Parkmail

4. Options including a smaller (20 acre) lake sound OK, but a 20 acre lake is a SMALL lake. Perhaps another County lake should be reduced in size/eliminated to save County park costs?

5. It seems like the County could be more creative concerning how to dispose of Accotink sediment. For example,
  - Could County solid waste facilities use large amounts of the soil?
  - Could the soil be made available free to County residents as is done with wood mulch?
  - There currently are large piles of fill dirt at Rte 395 and Edsall road. Couldn't the County or the State of Virginia benefit from free fill dirt?

W/o more information, I'd prefer that the County continue with the current dredging model. Of course, I'd enjoy to see cost saving wrt the current model.

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5/28/2018 Parkmail

I have attended several of the Lake Accotink Master Plan meetings and have these comments and suggestions.

1. Keep the lake. Next time it is dredged do it deeper than before so it will last longer.
2. Install a forebay for silt retention. I suggest having it on the north side of Braddock Rd. There is a lot of land there under the power lines in Wakefield Park. This is an lightly used area. Access for dredging would be off of Braddock near the sewer pumping station. A forebay would also have to be installed for Longbranch Creek.
3. When the lake is dredged next time I suggest routing the trucks along the Cross County Trail out to Braddock Rd. Right before Braddock have the trucks turn right and go in front of Ravensworth Farms pool to Inverchapel Rd. This would avoid trucks in the neighborhood. No trucks in the neighborhoods avoids noise, truck traffic and wear on the pavement. The trail is already a single lane road and was originally the road used to install the sewer line that runs next to the path. The trucks would have to deal with on-way traffic but that is a small price to pay for peace in the neighborhood. There would also have to be upgrades to the path to be able to support heavy trucks. An alternative would be to use the trail as far as Ellet Rd where the trucks could then have access to Inverchapel or Queensberry.
4. Another route for the trucks could be the park access road that runs out to Rolling Rd. This is an old rail road bed so it should only need minimal beefing up. It is one lane so there would have to be coordination for the gas company employees who work at the facility on this road.

Thanks for all the informative meetings

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5/28/2018	Parkmail	<p>I offer the following public comment. The only acceptable plan for Lake Accotink is Option C. As the County's own website acknowledges, "Lake Accotink Park is an integral part of the community, as well as the county park system." The Park Authority proclaims that its mission is "to set aside public spaces for and assist citizens in the protection and enhancement of environmental values, diversity of natural habitats and cultural heritage to guarantee that these resources will be available to both present and future generations." Option C is the only option that preserves this "integral part of the community...for present and future generations." Every other option materially changes, or eliminates it.</p> <p>The discussion about truck traffic is spurious. I sit behind long lines of trucks daily in Tysons Corner and elsewhere for the Dulles Rail, the Capital One building, and so on. Our County staff and Supervisors haven't been wringing about the number of trucks that the widespread development across the County requires. When it comes to saving this critical local resource, however, truck traffic is presented as a major impediment. It is not. This is a transparent effort to concoct an excuse for not saving this Park...and it must be rejected.</p> <p>Decades of upstream development, of course, is the reason that Lake Accotink is in peril. For decades, the County has welcomed nearly any development in the interest of increasing the property tax base. We have suffered traffic delays, diminished green space, and other costs from this development. We should not be required to sacrifice a long-standing, unique and valuable recreational resource. The County must take the steps necessary to preserve Lake Accotink, as is, for future generations.</p> <p>Finally, as a resident of the affected stretch of Heming Avenue, the proposal to connect the upper and lower lots must be rejected. It will turn the Park road, and Heming Avenue, into a cut-through for Springfield traffic. I bought property on a dead-end street. A plan that would turn it into a commuter thoroughfare will threaten the lives of children and diminish the residential nature of the community. If the County is so concerned about short-term truck traffic for Option C, why is showing so little concern about permanently turning Heming Avenue into a commuter corridor?</p>
5/28/2018	Lake Management Survey	<p>The connection of the lots would increase the road traffic, with increased traffic comes increased risk to park walkers/bikers as (based on 30 years of mountain biking and hiking at Lake Accotink) - drivers are often oblivious to the reality of said walkers and bikers.</p>
5/28/2018	Lake Management Survey	<p>Lake Accotink Park is part of my daily life. I walk the trail around the lake on most days. It's much more than exercise. It's communing with nature, both flora and fauna. It's being in a forest. It's watching the birds soar over the lake and the stream. It's letting the rest of the world go by - and nothing enables that better than NATURAL surroundings.</p> <p>When we bought our North Springfield house in 1984, a major plus was the fact that there was an entrance to this wonderful park in the neighborhood. We've used it all through the years. Pushing baby strollers; guiding big wheels; accompanying young bicycle riders; playground visits; carousel, putt putt golf. And of course the natural, open space with the lake, the woods, and the wildlife.</p> <p>MANY families and individuals have the same history and current experience with this park. It contributes to our collective well-being in ways much deeper than the particular day's recreation or exercise. Lake Accotink Park is a community treasure and maintaining it is a community - and Fairfax County - priority.</p> <p>The Master Plan addresses the problem with sedimentation in our streams and lakes. Please remember that this is a broad-based problem that dumps sediment into Lake Accotink. It's NOT a problem caused by Lake Accotink. The cost of sediment buildup cannot be appropriately associated with only Lake Accotink or only the budget allocated to the park. Local and state governments need to focus on the causes of sediment, such as storm water runoff from poorly designed and managed property (e.g., covered with impervious surfaces) and the damage it does to stream banks. Those things are driving the need for and cost of dredging sediment out of receptacles like Lake Accotink. County and state building and landscaping codes and associated permits, taxes, and penalties need to be reformed to reduce the runoff problem while making those who contribute runoff pay their fair share of the County's costs of addressing it. I know this is an objective that can only be achieved over the long term, but in the meantime, let's do what we must to take good care of Lake Accotink and Lake Accotink Park and preserve it for future generations.</p>
5/28/2018	Lake Management Survey	<p>I have visited and enjoyed Lake Accotink for more than three decades, bringing my children there when they were young, jogging, bike riding, reveling in the diversity of plants and waterfowl. There are so many others like me who consider Lake Accotink a Fairfax County treasure. It's picnic areas are always crowded and lively. Boaters enjoy the serenity of being on the water. The trails around the lake and off of the lower parking lot provide rich experiences that all lead back to this beautiful lake. It would be a huge loss for the community and those beyond who have discovered this park to allow it to fill in or reduce it to a small shadow of what it is today. I hope that county officials will agree to Plan C and preserve Lake Accotink for generations to come.</p>
5/28/2018	Lake Management Survey	<p>Lake Accotink is a Fairfax County treasure. We lived in North Springfield for over 30 years and enjoyed all that the park had to offer: the walks around the lake, the ballpark, the picnic areas, the carousel and introducing the children to all that nature has to offer. Please don't do anything to change the park for future generations.</p>
5/28/2018	Lake Management Survey	<p>I have been a resident of North Springfield for over 25 years. I can attest that Lake Accotink in its present form is a valuable asset to a diverse community that uses it for boating, kayaking fishing, hiking, camping, photography, and canoeing. It keeps sediment from draining into the Chesapeake Bay watershed as well. Many less affluent Fairfax County residents and apartment dwelling families have benefited from this beautiful lake for many years and taking it away from them just because wealthy residents do not see such value in having community resources as nice as this for everyone to share would truly be a great loss to the county and cheapness for short term benefit where it is clearly not needed. Please reconsider this strategy and preserve this beautiful lake for the community for future generations.</p>
5/28/2018	Lake Management Survey	<p>Option C is the only thing that makes sense. Boardwalks should also be added to provide access to the pond with a bridge over the creek to the creek island for wildlife viewing. There is such diverse wildlife, failing to provide viewing areas and a nature center is a disservice to Fairfax County.</p>
5/28/2018	Lake Management Survey	<p>Lake Accotink has been a blessing for our family for nearly 27 years. Our children have been enriched through Lake Accotink camps, summer employment, special activities and regular family walks.</p> <p>As taxpaying Fairfax county residents, we haven't asked for anything special in all these years, but this issue needs positive government action. Please do everything you can to maintain Lake Accotink in its current form so that our families, community and wildlife can continue to be blessed by it. Please support option C.</p>

5/28/2018	Lake Management Survey	Lake Accotink is a valuable resource for the community and surrounding areas. It provides recreation for many diverse populations and habitat for a variety of wildlife including bald eagles, ospreys, and herons. Our family enjoys Lake Accotink Park every day. It is critical that the lake be preserved for these recreational and habitat reasons. If the lake is not preserved and managed, it will become an eyesore and a magnet for mosquitos other unwanted pests; and it could even make the area more susceptible to criminal activities. This is unacceptable for such an important resource in one of the wealthiest counties in the nation. We strongly urge the County to make the right decision and preserve Lake Accotink. Sincerely, Jennifer and Jonathan Gibson - 17-year Ravensworth Farm (Ravenel Lane) homeowners and annual contributors to the Fairfax County Park Foundation
5/28/2018	Lake Management Survey	It would be a very bad idea to connect the upper and lower parking lots because lake accotink park would then become a short cut that would allow drivers not interested in visiting the park to cut through the park to avoid the Springfield mixing bowl. It would greatly increase cut through traffic in the residential neighborhoods surrounding the park (especially Ravensworth, King's park, north Springfield, and West Springfield).
5/28/2018	Lake Management Survey	My wife and I love using the park and walking around on the trails I sure hope it does go away .
5/28/2018	Lake Management Survey	Connecting the upper & lower parking lots would essentially make North Springfield a cut through for anyone wishing to get to Springfield and on to Old Keene Mill Rd avoiding the Backlick/Braddock Rd intersection, the /Edsall Rd intersection, or avoiding the mixing bowl for same destinations.
5/28/2018	Lake Management Survey	PLEASE continue to care for and dredge Lake Accotink as needed to keep it up; we must do what we can to preserve this precious, beloved Lake that brings so much joy, peace and benefits to so many people and animals in our county.. I've been going there since I was a child and there is no other place like it; is an integral part of our community. We must preserve it!
5/28/2018	Lake Management Survey	This lake is important to many in our community
5/28/2018	Lake Management Survey	Please do not let lake accotink disappear so it can be sold to developers. The county and our elected officials should be doing all in their power to save the lake and its surrounding environment & diverse fauna and flora. Please continue to research methods on this and also look at what other states/counties have done in this predicament to save a body of water. Would be devastating to the community & environment for Lake Accotink to disappear. Thanks
5/28/2018	Lake Management Survey	Mi wife and I love to canoeing in the lake because its so romantic place with the jungle and the birds,I'm too pissed off and angry for letting the lake & park get in this situation. We must all get together to make Lake Accotink park great again!
5/28/2018	Lake Management Survey	Option C is best option for the long term.
5/28/2018	Lake Management Survey	This lake is a valuable resource that I have enjoyed for over 30 years. Please take the necessary steps to ensure that future generations can also enjoy it to its fullest and deepest. Joe Levesque
5/28/2018	Lake Management Survey	Option C has been shown to be the most cost-effective measure in the long term. It will also allow the residents of Fairfax County and beyond to continue to enjoy the beautiful space of Lake Accotink Park and all it has to offer.
5/28/2018	Lake Management Survey	Our family loves visiting the lake and trails around it, as well as the lower trails. I can't imagine the area without it! We
5/29/2018	<b>PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD REGARDING LAKE MANAGEMENT OPTIONS IS CLOSED</b>	