

FAQs – New Accotink Section of Cross County Trail

What is the Cross County Trail?

The Cross County Trail is the primary multi-use north/south trail in the county, passing through woodlands and open space along much of its length. Users experience a variety of landscapes, from remote wooded terrain to ballfields and developed parks, from wide stream valleys to rolling hills. The trail surface varies too, with parts of the trail wide, paved formal paths and others stonedust or even natural surface trails more appropriate to hikers, mountain bikers or equestrians. The trail extends from the Potomac River in the north to the Occoquan River in the south.

What is the surface of the trail?

Different sections are surfaced differently to meet a variety of needs. Pedestrians, hikers, joggers, bikers, skaters, and equestrians share the trail as it is appropriate to their activities. A large portion of the trail in the Accotink Stream Valley is asphalt or concrete, while many sections along Difficult Run remain natural surface or stonedust. Sections along the roadways are concrete sidewalks or asphalt roadside trails.

Why did the Park Authority build the new paved section of trail south of the Lake Accotink dam parking lot?

This relocation of a section of the CCT accomplishes the following:

- It eliminates the at-grade crossing of Old Keene Mill Road
- It stabilizes this trail in the active flood plain of Accotink Creek and eliminates the multi-track, muddy trail that previously existed here
- It provides a 2.3 miles section of fully accessible trail for users with disabilities
- It relocates the trail from the AT&T easement right behind the backyards of park neighbors
- It provides a bicycling link to the Franconia/Springfield Parkway trail and Metro station

Additionally, the Countywide Trails Plan (a component of the County Comprehensive Plan) indicates a major paved trail (8' wide asphalt or concrete) for this section of the Accotink Stream Valley.

What is the total length of the new section of trail?

The new trail section is 2.3 miles in length, from the parking lot south of Lake Accotink dam to the intersection with the old trail near Hunter Village Drive.

What are the rules of etiquette on this section of trail?

- Share the trail – respect others
- Maintain proper control of bicycles at all times
- Faster users pass on left
- Announce your passing – “passing on your left.”
- Do not disturb vegetation or wildlife
- Dogs must be leashed at all times
- Trails and park closed at dark

What type of use is allowed on the trail?

The CCT is multi-use but this section is not appropriate for equestrian use. Any pedestrian use and non-motorized wheeled use (bicycles, skates, etc.) is allowed. Motorized vehicles are not allowed on any part of the trail. The exception is for Electric Personal Assistive Mobility Devices (Segways and similar).

How was this trail project funded?

Various federal transportation grant funding, including a Transportation and Community and System Preservation grant of more than \$200,000, a CMAQ grant of \$425,000, and five separate Transportation Enhancement grants for a total of almost \$2 million was designated for the trail. Fairfax County Park Authority bond funds, approved by voters, covered the balance of the approximately \$2.5 million cost of the project.