



Lake Accotink

Update

Joni Calmbacher, Division Director, DPWES
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July 23, 2024

Task Force Findings & LimnoTech Discovery Report

“The Task Force finds that a smaller lake, in the range of 20 to 40 acres, can preserve a significant open water feature with a program of regular maintenance dredging. The Task Force further finds that most, if not all, of the dredge spoils in an initial dredge should remain on-site in Lake Accotink Park to the maximum extent feasible.”

“The Task Force also finds that some combination of a managed wetland and a grassland are viable options for the portions of the original 110-acre lake that have already, or will in the near to mid-future, fill in.”

“Identifying the experiences, amenities, and activities at Lake Accotink Park will inform the alternatives.” <Task Force>

“the bedload estimates/percentage is a critical assumption. This analysis should be considered our best guess at the loads leaving Lake Accotink.” “....we would urge caution if using them to inform decisions about the future of the lake and dam.” <LimnoTech>

“Estimating sediment transport rates is a very challenging undertaking” “The available data for the Accotink watershed can only tell us part of the story.” <LimnoTech>

“When considering sustainable alternatives, a smaller lake is feasible as part of a stream/lake complex. Onsite reuse of dredged spoils to restore or create new habitat, such as wetlands/grasslands, is a viable option.” <Task Force>

“the community be involved in...design goals, milestone deliverable reviews, and analyses.” <Task Force>

“The task force finds that a new survey, using a third-party entity with representation from this Task Force, needs to be developed and administered to ensure a more balanced and equitable survey.”

“The BOS needs to make a decision now about its general approach.”

“Finally, it is the finding of the Task Force that the community be at the table during such discussions.”

January 23, 2024, Joint Board Matter Directives

Therefore, Mr. Chairman, I move that the Board of Supervisors direct the County Executive and the Director of the Department of Public Works and Environmental Services to take the following actions and to conduct these activities in a timely manner:

- Proceed with the conduct of a [sedimentation rate study](#), which will measure sedimentation rates over a 3-year period.
- In cooperation with the Fairfax County Park Authority, [conduct an assessment of the Lake Accotink Dam](#) to determine the improvements and maintenance needed to ensure long-term regulatory compliance and safe functioning, and to explore sources of funding for any required improvements to the dam.
- Conduct a [feasibility study](#) of the 20-40 acre 4-to-8 foot deep [smaller lake option](#) identified in the Task Force's findings.
- [Develop a robust community engagement plan](#) informed by the Task Force's findings.
- [Repurpose an existing position](#) or establish a new position within DPWES to coordinate work related to all of the activities associated with this Board Matter.
- Maintain the Board's commitment of [\\$60,500,000 to preserving Lake Accotink](#) in the FY 2025-FY 2029 Advertised CIP.
- Coordinate with the Fairfax County Park Authority to resume the Lake Accotink Park Master Planning Process **upon completion of the feasibility study** and development of a long-term plan for the preservation of Lake Accotink.
- Ensure that the sedimentation rate study, assessment of the dam, community engagement plan, and feasibility study proceed immediately and concurrently.
- Produce for the Board by March 31, 2024, a timeline for completion of the various actions outlined in this motion.

Concurrent Efforts

Sediment Study



Preservation*
(Feasibility) Study
for a Smaller Lake
Option



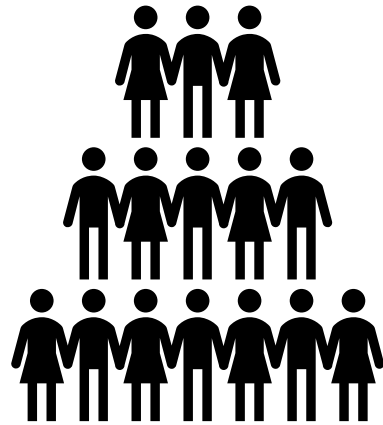
Dam Assessment
*(led by FCPA and
supported by DPWES)*



Robust Community Engagement Plan

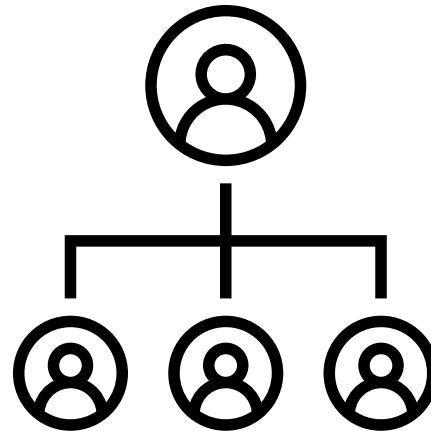
*The term “preservation” refers to maintaining a smaller lake that would preserve much of the aesthetic and recreational value of Lake Accotink that would continue to benefit park visitors.

Repurposed Position Lake Accotink Project Manager



Interdisciplinary Team

- Engineers
- Scientists
- Other Professionals



Status Update

Sedimentation Study

- USGS Funding Agreement was approved at July 16th Board Meeting
- Task Order Authorization phase for consultant modeling support

Fall 2024-Fall 2027

Dam Assessment

- Coordinating Consultant Scope of Work with FCPA

Fall 2024-Winter/Spring 2025

Outreach Engagement

- Task Order Authorization phase with specialized consultant
- Authorized late July

Summer 2024 and ongoing

Preservation* Study

- Final scope refinement
- Public input to begin late summer and extend into September

Fall 2024-Fall/Winter 2025 (Initial Phase)

*The term “preservation” refers to maintaining a smaller lake that would preserve much of the aesthetic and recreational value of Lake Accotink that would continue to benefit park visitors.



The Lake Accotink Project Team is excited to be wrapping up the necessary scoping and contracting efforts and to begin this important next phase of work.

