
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
 - 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.

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.

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 ft² in base area - please see footprint on attached figure. (Volume of pyramid, $V = \text{Base} * \text{Height} / 3$, Base = 1,383.2 ft², 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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| 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"> • http://arcg.is/2naRLEw <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. For dog owners, it maps where all the Northern Virginia dog parks are, with links to features, directions, Yelp reviews, and pictures. 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. 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).) 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"> • Again, the web address is http://arcg.is/2naRLEw 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 shbeste@gmail.com |
| 10/27/2017 FACILITIES AND PROGRAMMING WORKSHOP | | |
| 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? |
| 1/22/2018 LAKE MANAGEMENT AND DESIGN MEETING | | |
| 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. |

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.

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!

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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| 2/17/2018 | 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. |
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| 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. |

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 party goers, 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. |

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.

Page 2 of 2

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 : : www.accotink.org : :</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> |

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 yds³ 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.

2/26/2018 b Parkmail

- Since the sand and soil is not hydraulic, you would be reducing the volume from 350,000 yds³ to approx. 70,000 yds³
- 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 yds³ that is 80% water when you can excavate 70,000 yds³ 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 yds³ of dry silt and sand in an area that generated it then to dredge 350,000 yds³, 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

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?

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?

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. |

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| 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"> - To CONNECT the upper and lower parking lots for general traffic - To NOT CONNECT the upper and lower parking lots for general traffic - To connect the upper and lower parking lots for EMERGENCY ACCESS ONLY <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. |

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| 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. |

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| 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. |

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| 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? |

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| 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! |

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| 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 | COMMUNITY MEETING ON LAKE MANAGEMENT OPTIONS | |
| 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? |

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| 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. |

5/2/2018 b Parkmail

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 |

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| 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. |

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| 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"> 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. 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. 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. 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. 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. 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. |
| 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 https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/planning-development/lakeaccotink</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! |

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.

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.

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.

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.

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"> Retention of the existing Lake Accotink dam with addition of a sediment forebay Inclusion of passages for fish and eels in plans for the future of the dam |
| 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"> 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) 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) 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) <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. |

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| 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. |

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| 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"> 1. Floodplain and Flood Insurance Considerations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 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. 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. 2. TMDL Considerations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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"> ☑ Option A -\$91.1 million ☑ Option B -\$6.8 million ☑ Option C +\$8.6 million ☑ Option E -\$98.1 million ☑ Option F -\$99.8 million o Based on this ONLY Option C has a net positive benefit. 3. Valuing Resources <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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? |

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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> |

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| 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 | PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD REGARDING LAKE MANAGEMENT OPTIONS IS CLOSED | |