

# ***Lake Accotink Sustainability***



***Presentation and Workshop  
May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2016***



# Welcome!

Thank you for coming!

## ***Tonight's Agenda***

- ***Welcome and Introductions***
- ***Project Background***
- ***Presentation on Sustainability Options***
- ***Workshop Groups***
- ***Report Out***
- ***Next Steps***

# Lake Accotink Park



- ❖ *1 of the Park Authority's 3 lakefront parks*
- ❖ *493-acre park*
- ❖ *55-acre lake*
- ❖ *Over 250,000 visitors a year (doesn't account for all those who enter the park on foot or bike)*

- ❖ *The Park Authority acquired the property in 1967 through the Federal Lands to Parks Program*



# Lake Accotink Park

- *Original “Springfield Dam” built in 1918 (removed 1922)*
- *Current concrete spillway and dam constructed in 1940 to provide a source of drinking water for Camp A. A. Humphries (now Fort Belvoir)*
- *Since the creation of Lake Accotink, sedimentation has always been an issue*



# Lake Accotink Park

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## *What is sedimentation?*

Sedimentation is the natural process in which material (such as stones and sand) is carried to the bottom of a body of water and forms a solid layer.



# Lake Accotink Park

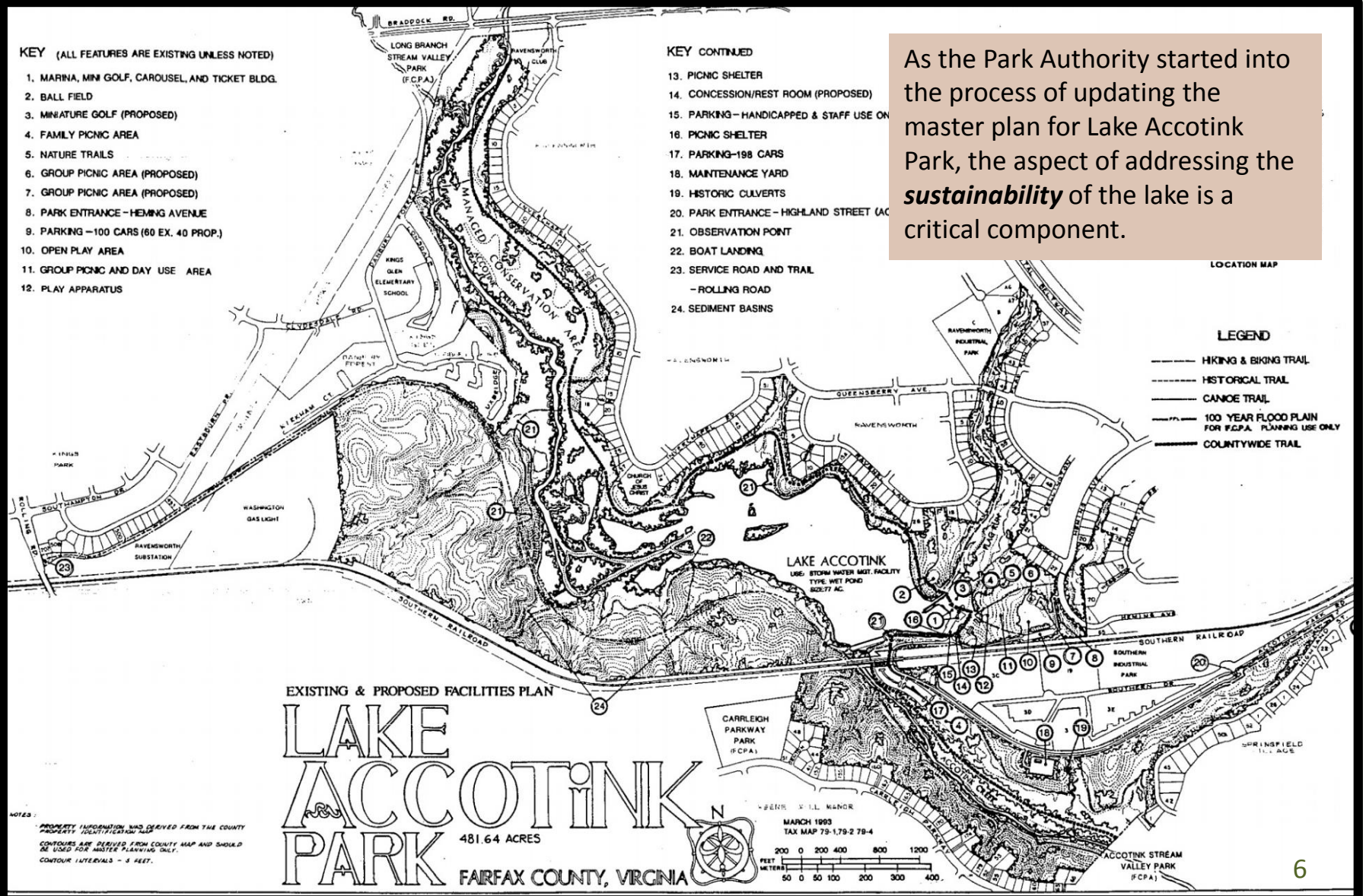
## KEY (ALL FEATURES ARE EXISTING UNLESS NOTED)

1. MARINA, MINI GOLF, CAROUSEL, AND TICKET BLDG.
2. BALL FIELD
3. MINIATURE GOLF (PROPOSED)
4. FAMILY PICNIC AREA
5. NATURE TRAILS
6. GROUP PICNIC AREA (PROPOSED)
7. GROUP PICNIC AREA (PROPOSED)
8. PARK ENTRANCE - HEMING AVENUE
9. PARKING - 100 CARS (60 EX. 40 PROP.)
10. OPEN PLAY AREA
11. GROUP PICNIC AND DAY USE AREA
12. PLAY APPARATUS

## KEY CONTINUED

13. PICNIC SHELTER
14. CONCESSION/REST ROOM (PROPOSED)
15. PARKING - HANDICAPPED & STAFF USE ONLY
16. PICNIC SHELTER
17. PARKING - 198 CARS
18. MAINTENANCE YARD
19. HISTORIC CULVERTS
20. PARK ENTRANCE - HIGHLAND STREET (AC)
21. OBSERVATION POINT
22. BOAT LANDING
23. SERVICE ROAD AND TRAIL  
- ROLLING ROAD
24. SEDIMENT BASINS

As the Park Authority started into the process of updating the master plan for Lake Accotink Park, the aspect of addressing the **sustainability** of the lake is a critical component.



EXISTING & PROPOSED FACILITIES PLAN

# LAKE ACCOTINK PARK

481.64 ACRES  
FAIRFAX COUNTY, VIRGINIA

NOTES:  
PROPERTY INFORMATION WAS DERIVED FROM THE COUNTY PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION MAP.  
CONTOURS ARE DERIVED FROM COUNTY MAP AND SHOULD BE USED FOR MASTER PLANNING ONLY.  
CONTOUR INTERVALS - 5 FEET.

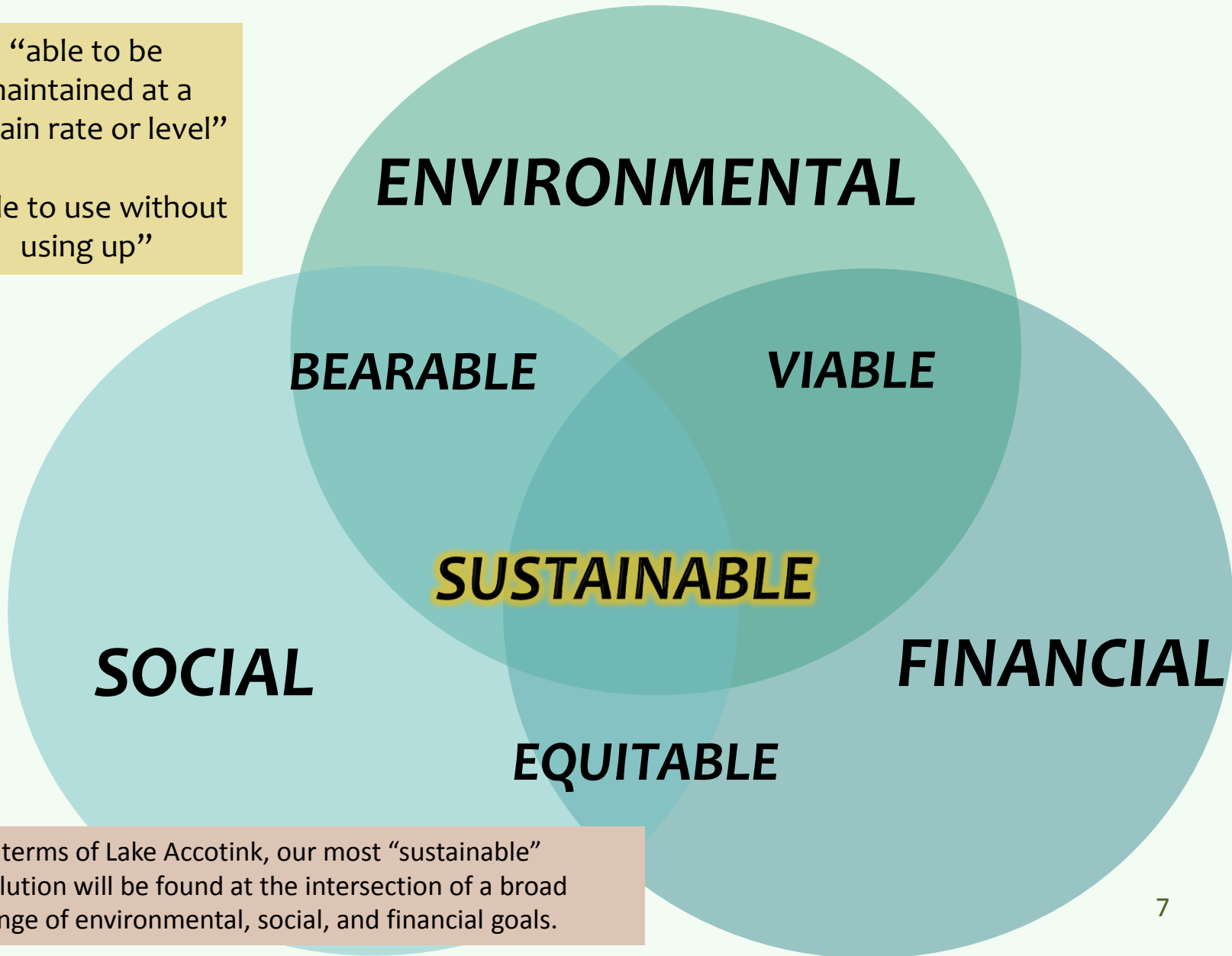
MARCH 1993  
TAX MAP 79-179-279-4

200 0 200 400 800 1200  
FEET  
50 0 50 100 200 300 400  
METERS

# What does “sustainable” mean?

“able to be maintained at a certain rate or level”

“able to use without using up”



In terms of Lake Accotink, our most “sustainable” solution will be found at the intersection of a broad range of environmental, social, and financial goals.

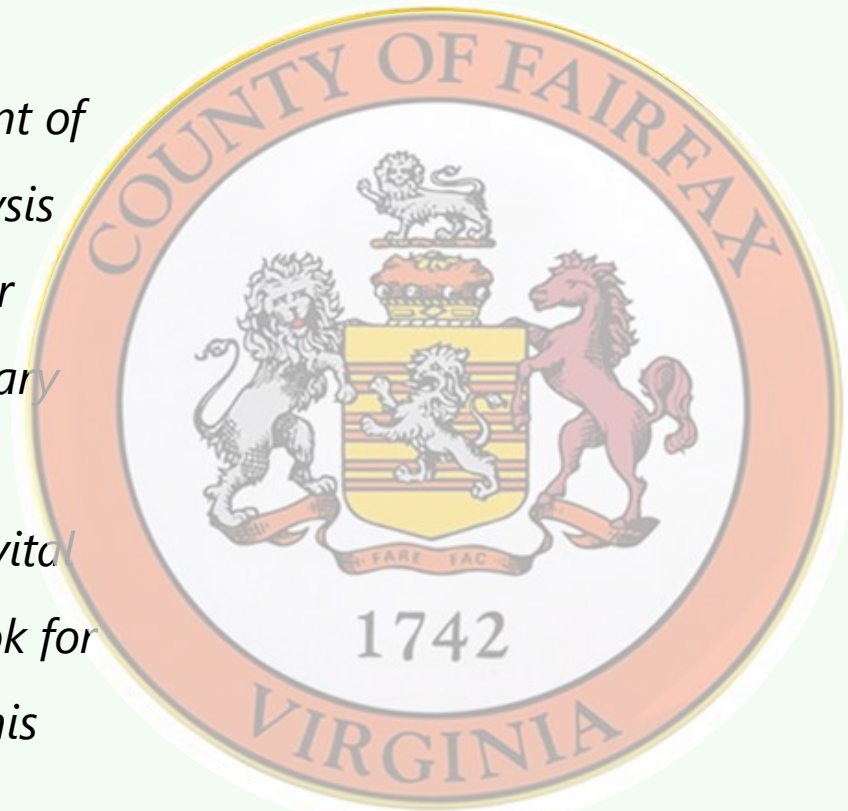
# Lake Accotink Sustainability Study

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September 2014

Board of Supervisors voted to:

*Approve one-time funding in the amount of \$179,000 to support a master site analysis and area-use recommendation study for Lake Accotink Park. This study is necessary planning work that will assist in the development and enhancement of this vital County facility. Staff will continue to look for additional funding sources to support this planning effort and required design elements, including grant funding.*



As Lake Accotink Park is a significant countywide resource, the Board of Supervisors voted to assist the Park Authority by approving the allocation of funds to help study the lake and impacts of sedimentation.



# *Lake Accotink Sustainability Study*

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To evaluate the current rate at which sediment enters and is trapped within the lake

AND

To investigate a range of alternatives for the management of Lake Accotink.

Over the past year, the Park Authority has utilized this funding to contract the services of Burgess & Niple Engineering and Wetland Studies and Solutions. A critical piece of this process was to examine the impact of sediment within the lake and develop a range of options how we might better address this long-standing problem.

Community input will be one of many factors that will lead to an ultimate decision about the management of Lake Accotink.

# Lake Accotink Sustainability Study

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HOWEVER, there are pieces of this puzzle that we still need to complete the picture. Some of these pieces, particularly pending state requirements, could be complete game changers in this decision process.

The purpose of this meeting, though, is to share with you the information we have gathered to this point to keep you informed, to help clarify the complexity of the subject, gain the benefit of your input.

*Still some missing pieces . . .*



# *Lake Accotink Sustainability Study*

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## ***Plan for the evening***

- ❖ *Presentation by WSSI on lake sustainability issues and alternatives*
- ❖ *Break into working groups for discussion*
- ❖ *Report out from each group*
- ❖ *Discuss next steps*

## ***and a few ground rules***

- ❖ *Please, no questions during the presentation*
- ❖ *Seek out the opinions of all group members*
- ❖ ***Extend courtesy to all during the evening***

# Lake Accotink Sustainability Plan Summary of Potential Alternatives

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Presented by:

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**Dillon M. Conner, PLA**

[dconner@wetlandstudies.com](mailto:dconner@wetlandstudies.com)

May 16, 2016



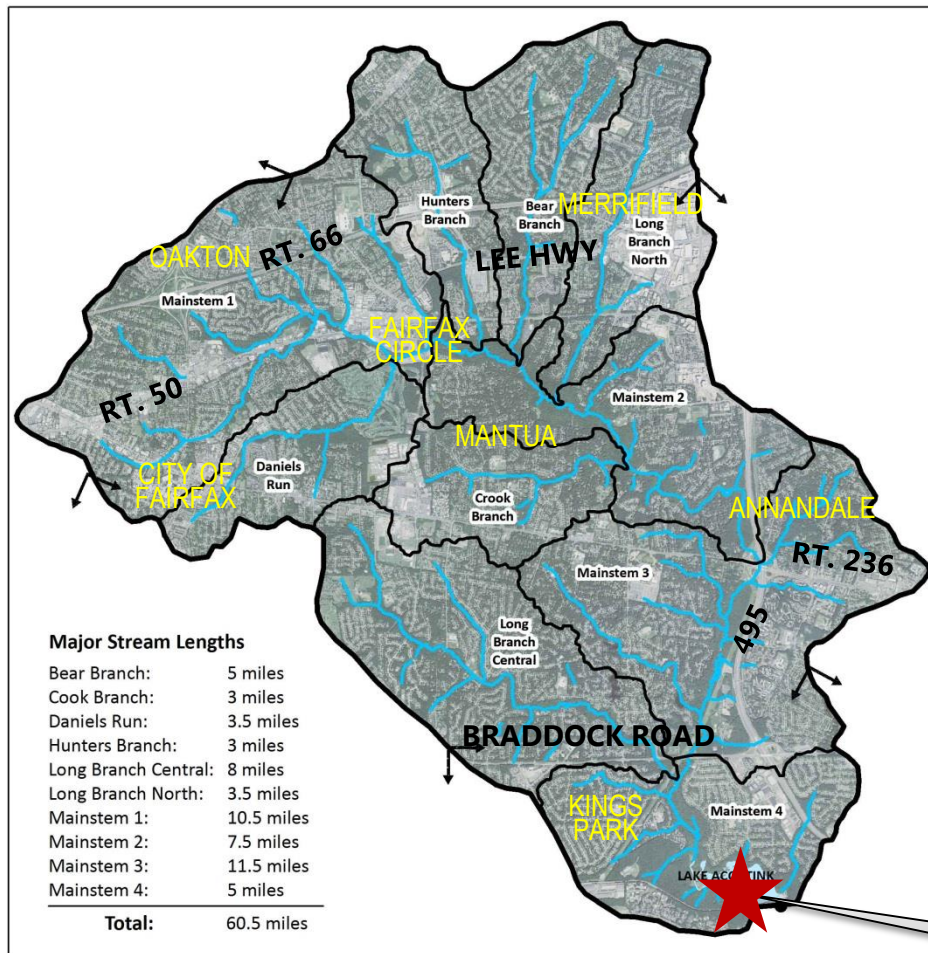
# Lake Sustainability Issues



# Lake Sustainability Issues



# Lake Sustainability Issues



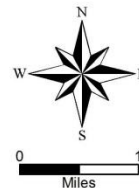
**Lake Accotink  
Drainage Area  
31 mi<sup>2</sup>**

**Stream Length  
60.5 miles**

**Impervious Cover  
30%**

**Lake Accotink**

Lake Accotink  
Watershed, Subwatersheds, & Major Streams  
WSSI #22647.01  
Original Scale: 1" = 1 mile

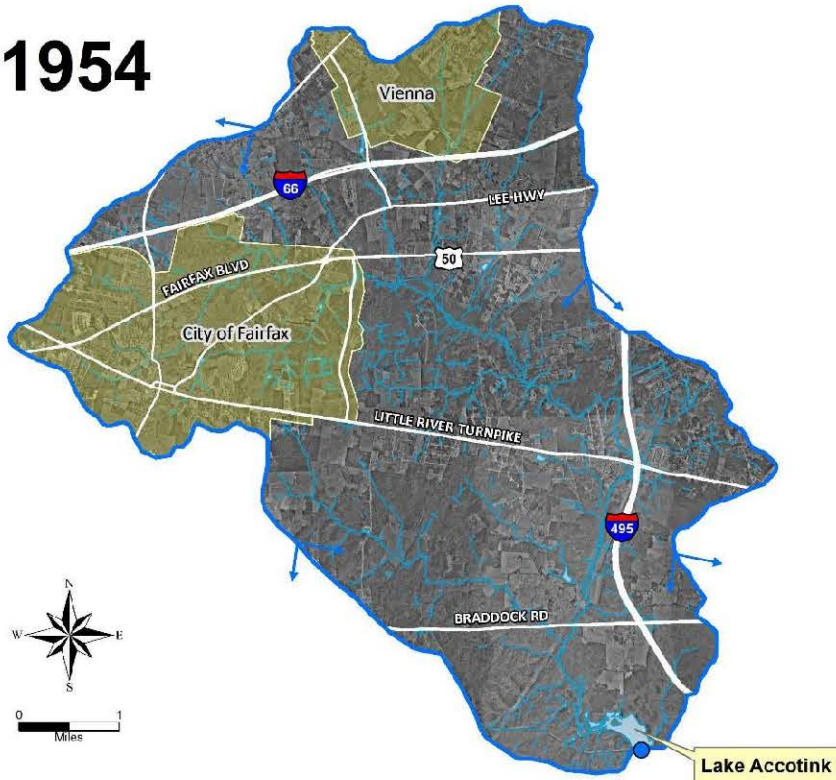


Aerial Source: NAIP, Summer 2014.

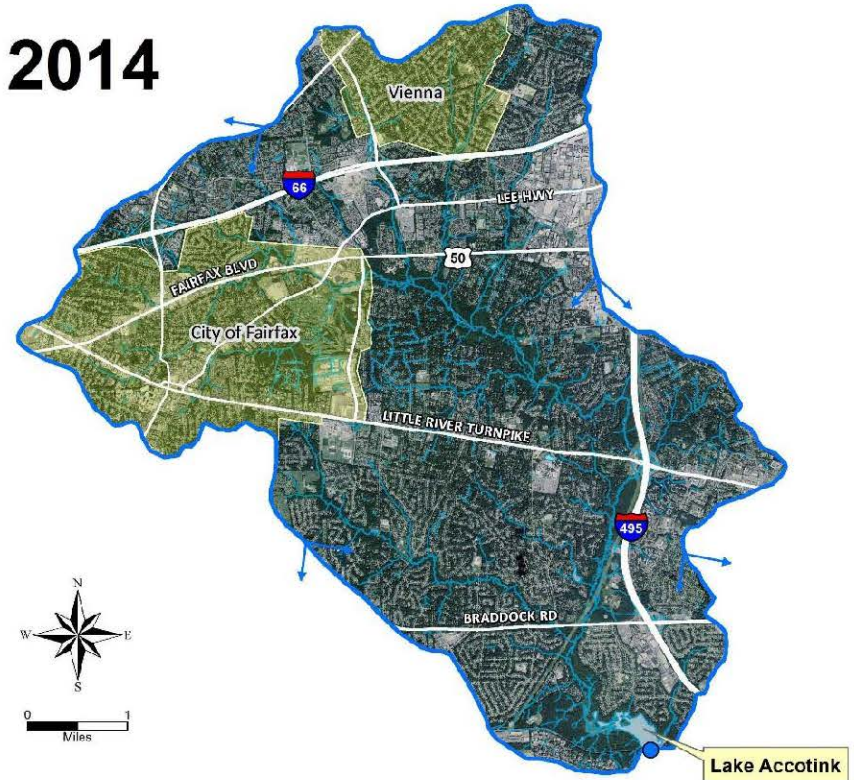
Wetland Studies and Solutions, Inc.  
a DAVEY company

# Lake Sustainability Issues

1954



2014

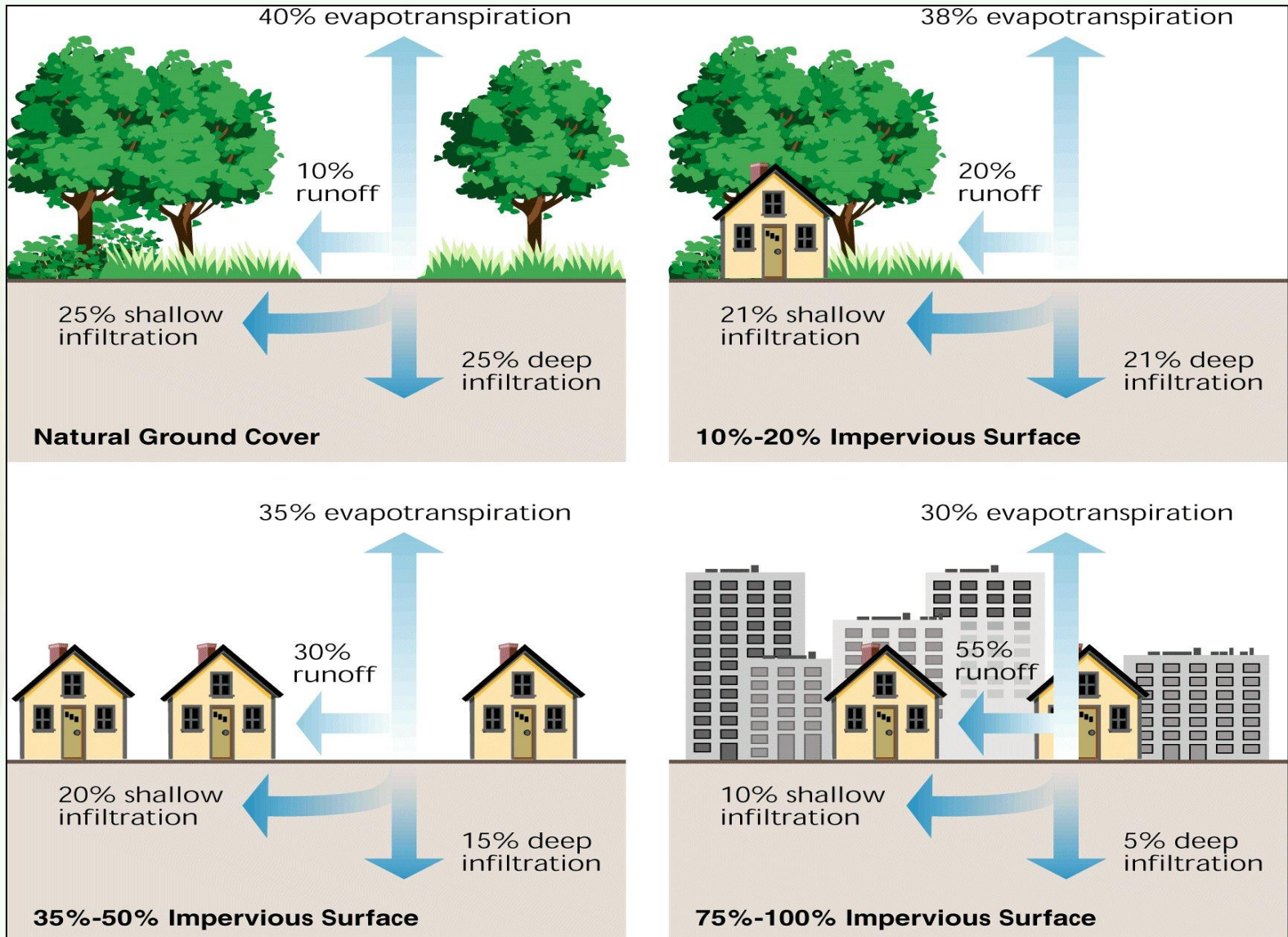




# Lake Sustainability Issues

## Why are streams eroding??

Source: The Federal Interagency Stream Restoration Working Group



# Lake Sustainability Issues

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# *Lake Sustainability Issues*

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## Continuing problem of sedimentation and associated loss of lake function:

- Since 2011, **90,895 cy** have been deposited, mostly in the upper region.
- Sedimentation rate = **22,750 cy/yr**.
- Based on the source (primarily streambank erosion), this will continue until the streams have stabilized – could be decades!



# Efforts to Date

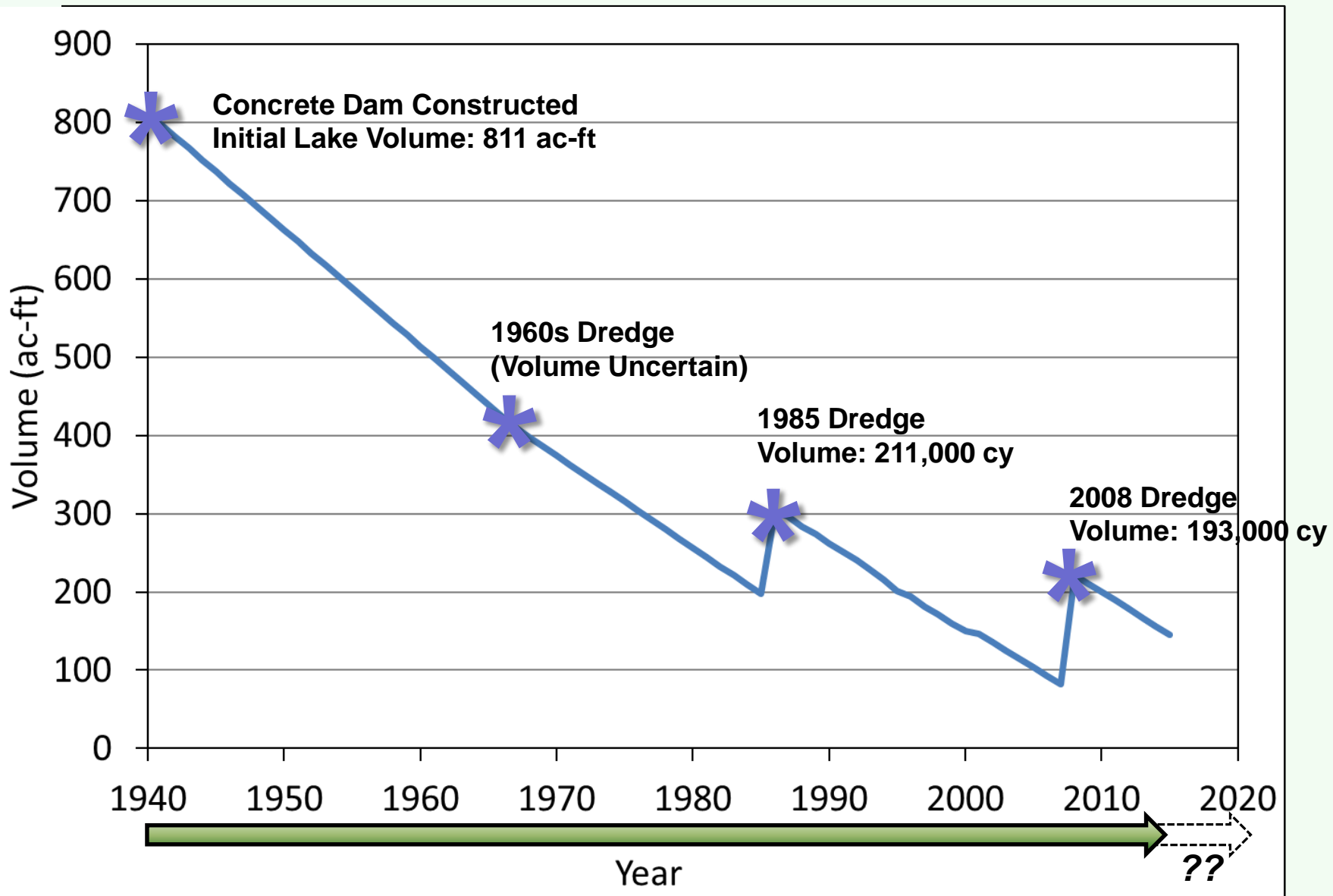
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## Previous Dredging Studies

- **Diagnostic and Feasibility Study for the Restoration of Lake Accotink**  
(NUSAC Incorporated, 1982)
- **F.X. Browne Sedimentation Studies 1983-1988**  
(Associated with 1985 Dredge Event)
- **Lake Accotink – Sediment Management Program Study**  
(HDR Engineering, Inc., January 2002)



# Efforts to Date





# Efforts to Date

## Lake Accotink FAIRFAX COUNTY, VA

1954



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Photo Source: Fairfax County GIS

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# Efforts to Date

## Lake Accotink FAIRFAX COUNTY, VA

1964



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Photo Source: USGS

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Feet



# Efforts to Date

## Lake Accotink FAIRFAX COUNTY, VA

1977



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Photo Source: USGS

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Feet

# Efforts to Date

## Lake Accotink FAIRFAX COUNTY, VA

1988

Post-1985  
dredge



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Photo Source: USGS

# Efforts to Date

## Lake Accotink FAIRFAX COUNTY, VA

1994



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# Efforts to Date

## Lake Accotink FAIRFAX COUNTY, VA

2000



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Photo Source: Aerials Express

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# Efforts to Date

## Lake Accotink FAIRFAX COUNTY, VA

2005



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Photo Source: Aerials Express

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# Efforts to Date

## Lake Accotink FAIRFAX COUNTY, VA

2007

Mid-  
dredge



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Photo Source: Aerials Express

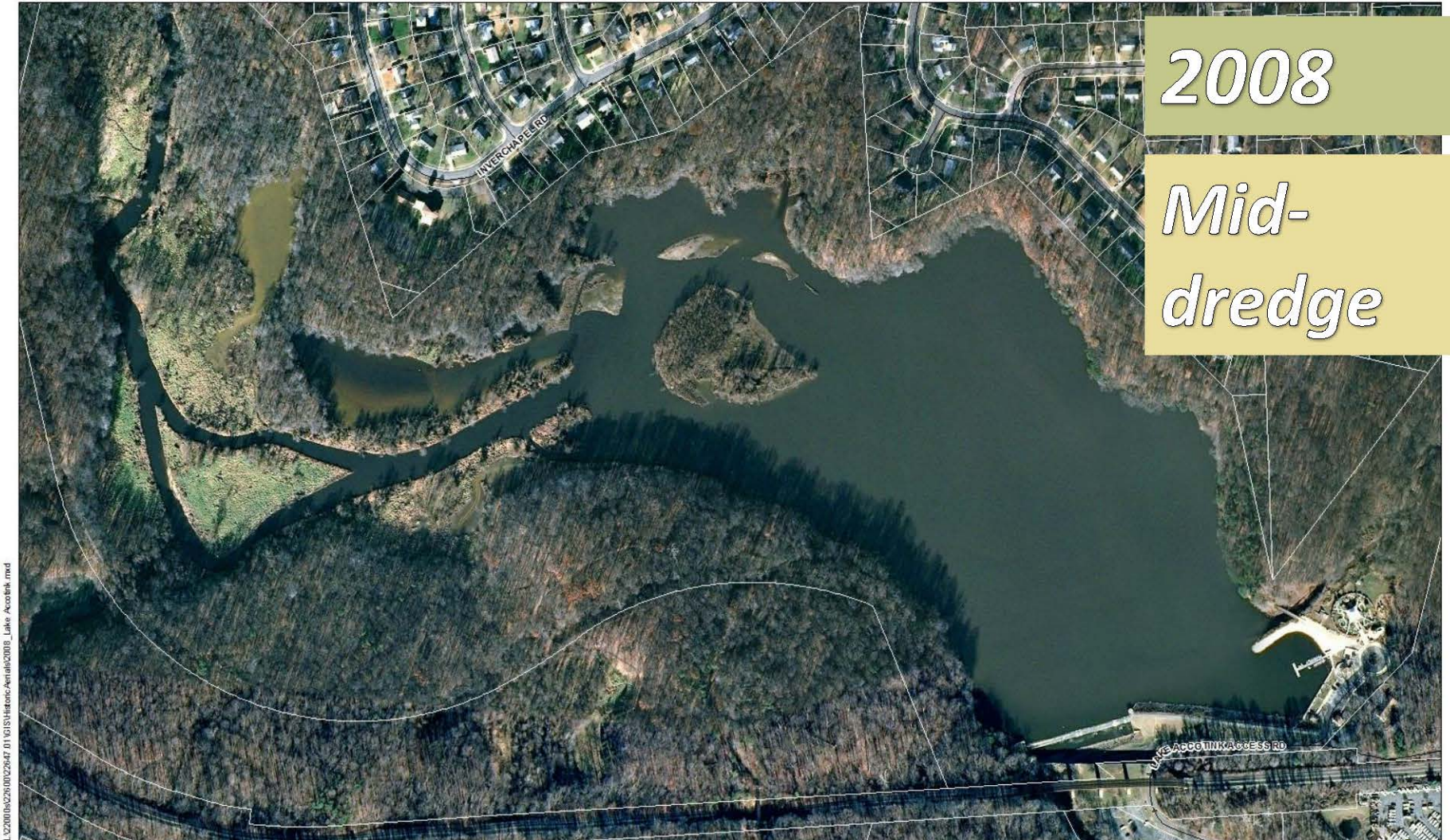
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# Efforts to Date

## Lake Accotink FAIRFAX COUNTY, VA

2008

Mid-  
dredge



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Photo Source: Aerials Express

Wetland Studies and Solutions, Inc.  
a DAVEY company

# Efforts to Date

## Lake Accotink FAIRFAX COUNTY, VA

2009

Post-2008  
dredge



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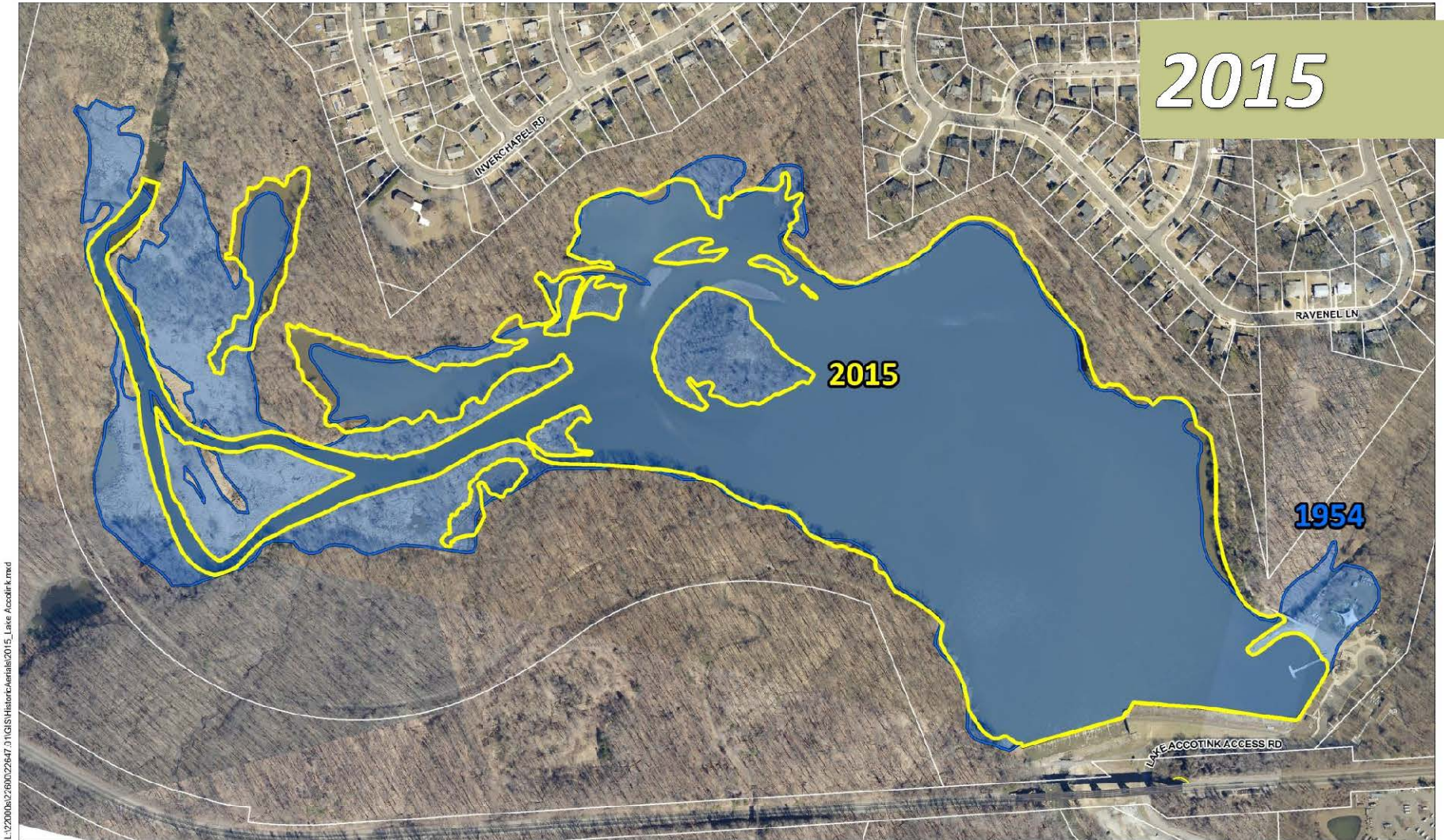
Photo Source: Landiscor

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Feet



# Efforts to Date

## Lake Accotink FAIRFAX COUNTY, VA



2015

2015

1954

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Photo Source: Pictometry, March 2015.

0 300 600 1,200 Feet

# *Lake Accotink Sustainability Study*

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## *A Range of Possibilities*



# Lake Accotink Sustainability Study

## Continued Dredging

ALTERNATIVE

A

### Location

- Within main body of the lake, primarily in the upper end.

### Goal

- To restore average depth to 5-8 ft for recreational boating. Remove approximately 350,000 cy.

### Dredging Lifecycle

- Approx. 15 - 20 year cycle.



# Lake Accotink Sustainability Study

## Continued Dredging

ALTERNATIVE

A

### Considerations

#### Full-Lake Dredge

##### **Initial Full Dredge of Lake:**

- ✓ Required, ±350,000 cy

##### **Dredging Lifecycle:**

± every 15 years

##### **Offsite Disposal of Sediment:**

- ✓ Required  
(Note - Additional cost and likely impacts from trucking activities)

#### Management Approach

##### **Maintenance Dredge Interval:**

- X No maintenance dredging is done with this alternative

##### **Offsite Disposal of Sediment:**

- X Not applicable as maintenance dredging is not performed

#### Recreation

##### **Recreational Use of the Lake:**

- ✓ Maintained

##### **Interruption of Recreational Use During Dredging Operations:**

- Interruption of lake usage for ±2 years every dredge cycle

#### Environmental

##### **Sediment Capture Relative to Current Level:**

- ✓ Maintained

# Lake Accotink Sustainability Study

## Sediment Forebay

ALTERNATIVE

**B**

### Location

- Either up-stream of lake or in-lake locations

### Configuration

- Surface Area - 13.3 ac
- Depth - 8 ft
- Volume - 94 ac-ft
- Sized for 15% of “Tv”

### Maintenance Dredging

- Trap efficiency can be increased with larger volume.
- Requires “temporary” on-site disposal area to be viable.



# Lake Accotink Sustainability Study

## Sediment Forebay

ALTERNATIVE

**B**

### Considerations

#### Full-Lake Dredge

##### **Initial Full Dredge of Lake:**

- ✓ Required, ±500,000 cy

##### **Dredging Lifecycle:**

± every 30-40 years

##### **Offsite Disposal of Sediment:**

- ✓ Required  
(Note - Additional cost and likely impacts from trucking activities)

#### Management Approach

##### **Maintenance Dredge Interval:**

- ✓ Annual/Biennial dredge of forebay

##### **Offsite Disposal of Sediment:**

- ✓ Required  
(Note - Additional cost and likely impacts from trucking activities)

#### Recreation

##### **Recreational Use of the Lake:**

- ✓ Maintained

##### **Interruption of Recreational Use During Dredging Operations:**

- Interruption of lake usage for ±2 years every major dredge cycle
- X No interruption during annual/biennial maintenance dredge of up-stream forebay
- Interruption of lake usage for several months annually/biennially with in-lake forebay maintenance

#### Environmental

##### **Sediment Capture Relative to Current Level:**

- ✓ Enhanced  
(isolated to facilitate removal)

# Lake Accotink Sustainability Study

## In-line “Beaver Dams”

ALTERNATIVE

C

### Location

- Upstream of lake and within Accotink Creek.

### Configuration

- Sheet pile “walls” within the channel to encourage sediment deposition. Rough capacity estimate of up to 12,000 cy per structure over time (variable).
- Will convert existing forested wetland areas to “beaver swamps” over time.

### Maintenance Dredging

- Some increased duration to the first full-lake dredging after installation, no impact thereafter.
- “Beaver ponds” not accessible for maintenance.



# Lake Accotink Sustainability Study

## In-line “Beaver Dams”

ALTERNATIVE

C

### Considerations

#### Full-Lake Dredge

##### **Initial Full Dredge of Lake:**

- ✓ Required, ±350,000 cy

##### **Dredging Lifecycle:**

± every 15 years with one time extension of ± 3 years

##### **Offsite Disposal of Sediment:**

- ✓ Required  
(Note - Additional cost and likely impacts from trucking activities)

#### Management Approach

##### **Maintenance Dredge Interval:**

- X Maintenance dredging of “beaver dams” impractical - one time use.

##### **Offsite Disposal of Sediment:**

- X Not applicable as maintenance dredging is impractical

#### Recreation

##### **Recreational Use of the Lake:**

- ✓ Maintained

##### **Interruption of Recreational Use During Dredging Operations:**

- Interruption of lake usage for ±2 years every major dredge cycle

#### Environmental

##### **Sediment Capture Relative to Current Level:**

- ✓ Enhanced (limited lifetime only)



# Lake Accotink Sustainability Study

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- Alternatives A, B, and C will all require an initial full dredge of the lake as the first phase of the project.
- Alternative B will require annual/biennial maintenance dredging and the ability to process dredge material on-site.
- Alternative C is a one-time option.

***It is anticipated that ultimate disposal of dredge material will require **trucking** to off-site location for any of the dredge options.***



# Lake Accotink Sustainability Study

## Sediment Disposal

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### Where to put it???

- Preliminary analysis of potential locations.
- Will require further study to align with chosen lake alternative.
- Removal of sediment will entail impacts to surrounding communities.



# Lake Accotink Sustainability Study

## Single Channel with Reclaimed Land (Elimination of Existing Dam)



### Location

- Stream along northern shore, reclaimed remaining footprint (reforest, wetlands, open space).

### Configuration

- Stream Creation Length – 3,300 lf.

### Maintenance Dredging

- Not necessary.



# Lake Accotink Sustainability Study

## Single Channel with Reclaimed Land

ALTERNATIVE

D

### Considerations

#### Establishment

*Establishment efforts focus on proper sizing and alignment of stream channel and the succession of a healthy wetland habitat.*

#### **Initial Full Dredge of Lake:**

X No initial dredge required

#### **Offsite Disposal of Sediment:**

X None required as there is no dredging

#### Management Approach

*Management efforts focus on stream channel stability and the succession of a healthy wetland habitat.*

#### **Maintenance Dredge Interval:**

X No maintenance dredge required

#### **Offsite Disposal of Sediment:**

X None required as there is no maintenance dredging

#### Recreation

#### **Recreational Use of the Lake:**

X Removed

#### Environmental

#### **Sediment Capture Relative to Current Level:**

X Effectively eliminates any sediment capture.

*(Requires further evaluation of pending state regulations and downstream impacts.)*

# Lake Accotink Sustainability Study

## Single Channel with Smaller Lake (Modification of Existing Dam)



### Location

- Stream along southern shore, smaller “off-line” lake/wetlands along northern shore.

### Configuration

- Lake Surface Area – 18.5 ac
- Depth – 8 ft
- Stream Length – 2,500 lf  
(90 ft wide (bankfull), 6 ft deep, transports sediment)

### Maintenance Dredging

- Not necessary



# Lake Accotink Sustainability Study

## Single Channel with Smaller Lake

ALTERNATIVE

**E**

### Considerations

#### **Establishment**

*Establishment efforts focus on proper sizing and alignment of stream channel and the succession of a healthy vegetative habitat.*

#### **Initial Full Dredge of Lake:**

X No initial dredge required

#### **Offsite Disposal of Sediment:**

X None required as there is no dredging

#### **Management Approach**

*Management efforts focus on stream channel stability and the succession of a healthy vegetative habitat.*

#### **Maintenance Dredge Interval:**

X No maintenance dredge required

#### **Offsite Disposal of Sediment:**

X None required as there is no maintenance dredging

#### **Recreation**

#### **Recreational Use of the Lake:**

✓ Retained but reduced

#### **Interruption of Recreational Use During Dredging Operations:**

- Yes, if necessary (off-line areas of open water would only require very infrequent maintenance)

#### **Environmental**

#### **Sediment Capture Relative to Current Level:**

X Effectively eliminates any sediment capture.

*(Requires further evaluation of pending state regulations and downstream impacts.)*

# Lake Accotink Sustainability Study

## Comparison of Alternatives

ALTERNATIVES		FULL LAKE DREDGE				MANAGEMENT APPROACH				RECREATION		ENVIRONMENTAL		
ALTERNATIVE	DESCRIPTION OF ALTERNATIVE	INITIAL FULL DREDGE OF LAKE REQUIRED	DREDGING LIFECYCLE	ESTIMATED SEDIMENT REMOVAL	ESTIMATED IMPACT TO ADJACENT NEIGHBORHOODS FROM TRANSPORT OF DREDGE MATERIAL	ANNUAL/BIENNIAL MAINTENANCE REQUIRED	MAINTENANCE CYCLE	ESTIMATED SEDIMENT REMOVAL	ESTIMATED IMPACT TO ADJACENT NEIGHBORHOODS FROM TRANSPORT OF DREDGE MATERIAL	RETAINS RECREATIONAL USE OF LAKE	INTERRUPTION OF LAKE USE DURING LIFECYCLE OR MAINTENANCE DREDGING	SEDIMENT CAPTURE RELATIVE TO CURRENT LEVEL	ADDRESSES NEW STATE SEDIMENT STANDARDS	IMPACTS TO WILDLIFE
<b>DREDGING ALTERNATIVES</b>														
<b>A</b>	CONTINUE WITH CURRENT DREDGING METHOD	<b>YES</b>	±15 YEARS BETWEEN FULL DREDGE	±350,000 CY	±35,000 TRUCK LOADS OVER SEVERAL YEARS	<b>NO</b>				<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>	CONSISTENT	?	?
<b>B</b>	INSTALL FOREBAY (EITHER IN-LAKE OR UP-STREAM)	<b>YES</b>	±30-40 YEARS BETWEEN FULL DREDGE	±500,000 CY	±50,000 TRUCK LOADS OVER SEVERAL YEARS	<b>YES</b>	ANNUAL/BIENNIAL MAINTENANCE	±15,000 CY	±1,500 TRUCK LOADS OVER SEVERAL MONTHS	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b> UP-STREAM FOREBAY <b>YES</b> IN-LAKE FOREBAY	ENHANCED (ISOLATES FOR REMOVAL)	?	?
<b>C</b>	INSTALL "BEAVER DAM" STRUCTURES	<b>YES</b>	±15 YEARS BETWEEN FULL DREDGE WITH 1 TIME EXTENSION OF ±3 YRS.	±350,000 CY	±35,000 TRUCK LOADS OVER SEVERAL YEARS	<b>N/A</b>				<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>	ENHANCED FOR A LIMITED PERIOD OF TIME	?	?
<b>STREAM CHANNEL ALTERNATIVES</b>														
<b>D</b>	SINGLE CHANNEL WITH RECLAIMED LAND (ELIMINATION OF EXISTING DAM)	<b>N/A</b>	ESTABLISHMENT EFFORTS FOCUS ON SIZING AND ALIGNMENT OF STREAM CHANNEL AND THE SUCCESSION OF A HEALTHY WETLAND HABITAT.			<b>NO</b>		MAINTENANCE EFFORTS WOULD FOCUS ON STREAM STABILITY AND THE SUCCESSION OF A HEALTHY WETLAND HABITAT.		<b>NO</b>	<b>N/A</b>	EFFECTIVELY ELIMINATES SEDIMENT CAPTURE	?	?
<b>E</b>	SINGLE CHANNEL WITH SMALLER LAKE (MODIFICATION OF EXISTING DAM)	<b>N/A</b>	ESTABLISHMENT EFFORTS FOCUS ON SIZING AND ALIGNMENT OF STREAM CHANNEL AND THE SUCCESSION OF A HEALTHY VEGETATIVE HABITAT.			<b>NO</b>		MAINTENANCE EFFORTS WOULD FOCUS ON STREAM STABILITY AND THE SUCCESSION OF A HEALTHY VEGETATIVE HABITAT.		<b>YES</b>	<b>N/A</b>	EFFECTIVELY ELIMINATES SEDIMENT CAPTURE	?	?

# Lake Accotink Sustainability Study

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## Summary

- 1) ***Discussed current watershed issues and concerns and the impacts to Lake Accotink***
- 2) ***Overview of efforts to date***
- 3) ***Several alternatives presented as to how Lake Accotink could be managed:***
  - A. Continue with current operation (major dredge every 15-20 years).
  - B. Construct a sediment forebay either up-stream of the lake or within the lake.
  - C. Construction of smaller “beaver dam” type structures upstream of the lake in line with the stream.
  - D. Alteration of the dam to return the lake to a single thread channel (land is reclaimed - reforested, wetland creation, or open space).
  - E. Alteration of the dam to return the lake to a single thread channel, with smaller “off-line” ponds.





# Lake Accotink Sustainability Study

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## 4) *Each option is quite different, but some common challenges/considerations:*

- Dredge-related forebay alternatives require temporary on-site disposal to be financially viable.
- Ultimate disposal of material will require trucking off-site.
- Many alternatives involve wetland impacts.
- Dam removal alternatives may have regulatory implications and require additional study to assess downstream impacts such as flooding and ultimate deposition of accumulated sediments.

## 5) *Stakeholder input is essential!!*



# Workshop Session

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## *Instructions*

1. Dot on your name tag will direct you to your working group
2. You will have 45 minutes to discuss two open-ended questions
3. Select a team member to record your working group's input
4. Select a team member to provide a briefly report out on the group's discussions

## *Supplies*

- List of questions
- Copies of the Alternatives
- Comparison chart of Alternatives
- Some "fast facts" about Lake Accotink Park
- Aerial photograph
- Various writing/drawing materials

## *Group Facilitators*

1. Julie Tahan  
Manager, Lake Accotink Park
2. Ed Richardson  
Manager, Area 4 Maintenance
3. Chris Goldbecker  
Lakefront Park Manager
4. Sandy Stallman  
Manager, Park Planning Branch
5. Gayle Hooper  
Landscape Architect, Park Planning Branch
6. Andi Dorlester  
Senior Planner, Park Planning Branch
7. Liz Cronauer  
Trails Manager, Park Planning Branch
8. Danielle Wynne  
Senior Ecologist, Stormwater Planning

# Workshop Session

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## *Subject Matter Experts*

### **Natural Resources**

- Kristen Sinclair, Senior Ecologist, Resource Management Division

### **Cultural Resources**

- John Rutherford, Resource Management Division

### **Stormwater Planning/Watershed**

- Charles Smith, Stormwater Planning

### **Sustainability Alternatives**

- Frank Graziano, WSSI



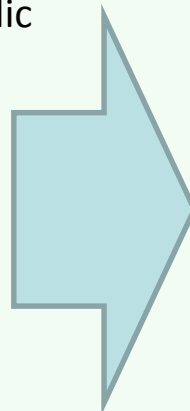
# Next Steps

## Lake Sustainability Study

- The presentation from tonight and a meeting summary will be posted on the project web page
- Public input on the alternatives presented will accepted through June 30, 2016.
- DEQ to publish updated TMDL standards by end of 2016
- Analysis of the new standards and what they mean to this project.
- Additional opportunities for public involvement



- Final Lake Accotink Sustainability Study



## Master Plan Revision

- Continue to interact with the community to better understand their use of and vision for Lake Accotink Park to inform the master plan
  - Cardboard Boat Regatta
  - Summer Concert Series
  - Community Groups
- Additional opportunities for public involvement



- Draft Lake Accotink Park Master Plan Revision for public review and comment



# Thank you!

for sharing your  
time and input

