

# Friends of Lake Accotink Park FLAP



ISSUE 04

December 2019

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## NOTES FROM THE BOARD

Mary Keeser, President FLAP

We have continued to work several important projects, activities and efforts; additional information is provided in this newsletter and on our social media. We would like to welcome Sara Oberther as our newest Acting Manager of Lake Accotink Park. Sara brings a wealth of expertise, and knowledge to Lake Accotink Park. Welcome aboard Sara.

We are very pleased to announce Charles Smith from Public Works and Environmental Services will be our upcoming General Membership meeting guest speaker. Charles Will be discussing the Lake Accotink dredging, the Flag Run stream restoration, the Long Branch Central Watershed Management Area restoration, and other projects in the Accotink watershed. Please plan on joining us 19 December 7:30 at 5610 Inverchapel Rd, Springfield. Critical to our success are our Committee Directors, members and volunteers - We need your talents, skills, and dedication (a few hours a month): FLAP Committees: Stewardship, Recreation, Fundraising, and Special Projects. Encourage your neighbors, colleagues, friends and family to get involved and make a positive difference to your Lake Accotink Park. To volunteer send your contact information to [contact@flapaccotink.org](mailto:contact@flapaccotink.org). Thank you for being an active member of FLAP, together we can make a positive impact for our community and our Lake Accotink Park. See you on the trail.

## FLAP NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION

The Friends of Lake Accotink Park (FLAP) newsletter is distributed quarterly to provide information about the park, raising its awareness and visibility in the community. Distribution includes all FLAP members; the district offices of the three magisterial districts that border Lake Accotink Park: Braddock District, Lee District, and Springfield District; and the following communities for posting on their website or inclusion in their community newsletters: Canterbury Woods, Carleigh Homeowners Association, Danbury Forest, Kings Park, North Springfield Civic Association, Oak Hill, Ravensworth Farm, Stonehaven, Springfield Civic Association, and West Springfield Civic Association.

## FLAP BOARD

2018 -2020

POSITION	NAME	e-Mail
President	Mary Keeser	<a href="mailto:president@flapaccotink.org">president@flapaccotink.org</a>
Vice President	Anthony Vellucci	<a href="mailto:Vice.President@flapaccotink.org">Vice.President@flapaccotink.org</a>
Secretary	Jim Hickey	<a href="mailto:secretary@flapaccotink.org">secretary@flapaccotink.org</a>
Treasurer	Meghan Walker	<a href="mailto:treasurer@flapaccotink.org">treasurer@flapaccotink.org</a>
Member At Large	Dave Gibson	<a href="mailto:memberAL@flapaccotink.org">memberAL@flapaccotink.org</a>

[facebook.com/friendsoflakeaccotinkpark/](https://facebook.com/friendsoflakeaccotinkpark/)

[twitter.com/accotinkfriends](https://twitter.com/accotinkfriends)

[@friendsoflakeaccotinkpark](https://www.facebook.com/accotinkfriends)

[www.flapaccotink.org](https://www.flapaccotink.org)

[Contact@flapaccotink.org](mailto:Contact@flapaccotink.org)



# Friends of Lake Accotink Park FLAP



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## OUR IMPACT

***FLAP Volunteers continue our Positive Impact to Lake Accotink Park. Our monthly cleanups remove debris-trash from the marina, trails and woodlands, you are seeing our results! WE NEED YOUR HELP - VOLUNTEER***



On Sunday, December 8, 2019, five-year-old Declan and three-year-old Reilly joined their parents to participate in the monthly Lake Accotink cleanup. They had a great time! They focused on the rocks next to the lake and a parking lot. The most interesting items they found were a shoe, a sock, a shirt, and a carpet! They were very happy to pick up items that an animal could mistake for food, including small items like bottle caps, food wrappers, and pieces of styrofoam. They were rewarded for their efforts with sightings of bald eagles and a great blue heron. They are excited to come back for another monthly cleanup!



# Friends of Lake Accotink Park FLAP



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## CRITTER OF THE QUARTER



### *BARRED OWL*

By Dave Gibson, FLAP Board Member at Large

**Not the BARN OWL (*Tyto Alba*).** Although both have heart-shaped faces, the BARRED OWL (*Strix varia*) is much bigger and prefers forest edges, which Lake Accotink Park offers nicely. The term “barred” derives from the appearance of its alternating white and brown breast feathers that look like they contain bars from a distance. These birds of prey stand 1.5 to 2 feet in length with a 43-inch wingspan, but they weigh only 1.5 pounds on average; females are a little larger than the males. They have hooked yellow beaks but dark brown eyes; most of America’s 200-plus species of owl are yellow-eyed. December and January are the beginning of their mating season when they fill the woods – and sometimes our back yards – with loud hoots. Birders say they sound like, “Who? Who? Who cooks for yooooou?” They like to nest at least 15 feet up in mature trees with open understories and often occupy abandoned nests of crows or hawks. Many couples are pair-bonded, and they return to the same next year after year. The average clutch is two to four white eggs, which the female incubates for roughly a month while the male brings her food. At about four weeks the downy gray nestlings begin to perch and survey their surroundings before fledging at about six weeks. Thereafter they are independent but generally stay with their parents a further few months to learn hunting skills. Hunting mainly at night, they prey primarily on voles, mice and shrews but will add several other animals in their diet where available, including squirrels, rabbits, bats and snakes. Frogs and crayfish are occasionally on the menu. Perched on a branch while patiently awaiting an opportunity, barred owls have been observed bobbing their heads up and down. Ornithologists suggest this may help the owl gauge the range to a target meal. Almost silently swooping down for the kill, the sharp talons and beak make quick work of prey. After swallowing their food whole, strong acids digest the soft parts of their food, leaving bones and feathers which the owls regurgitate as “owl pellets.” If you find them on the ground, a nest may be nearby. A very successful species, the barred owl is native to North America and occupies nearly all of the USA from the east coast to the Mississippi River watershed. Only in Florida has it experienced significant habitat loss. It has few natural enemies, but barred owls most often fall prey to foxes. Over the past few centuries, it has made its way west across the forests of southern Canada, returning to the States in the Pacific Northwest. However, it has become a bit of a pariah on the Left Coast. For about 50 years it has been pushing into territory on the Coast Range long occupied by the endangered **NORTHERN SPOTTED OWL** (*Strix occidentalis caurina*), that saved the old-growth forests from the timber industry. The spotted owl looks, sounds and behaves much like the barred owl but is much smaller. Evidently, the two owls are not natural enemies; in fact, they have hybridized enough to have the Audubon Society recognize the offspring as the SPARRED OWL (*Strix hybrid*). Yet, competition for space has resulted in a spotted-owl population decline that alarmed friends of those forests. In response, in 2015 federal and state authorities implemented an experimental controlled hunt to kill 3,600 barred owls aiming to help Spotty reclaim some of his range. By 2018 some 2,435 barred owls had been shot. Preliminary analysis indicates the barred owl’s advance can be **halted**, but no resurgence of spotted owls has occurred. *Photos © Keith Feinburn used by his permission.*



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## FLAP UPCOMING MEETINGS – EVENTS



By Meghan Walker, FLAP Treasurer (past FLAP President)

Flapaccotink.org (events tab)

DECEMBER	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH
12/12- FLAP General Membership Meeting	1/12- FLAP monthly cleanup	2/9- FLAP monthly cleanup	3/8- FLAP monthly cleanup
12-14 FLAP Pollinator Garden dedication ceremony			3/19 FLAP General Membership Meeting

## 2020 FLAP GENERAL MEMBERSHIP and ALLIANCE(s) MEETING SCHEDULE

**LOCATION:** Community of Christ 5610 Interchapel Road, Springfield VA 22151

**TIME :** 7:30pm to 8:30pm

**DATES:** MARCH 19<sup>th</sup> Thursday/ JUNE 18<sup>th</sup> Thursday/ SEPTEMBER 17<sup>th</sup> Thursday /DECEMBER 17<sup>th</sup> Thursday



### Help Lake Accotink VOLUNTEER

**WHEN:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Sun of every Month  
**TIME:** 9:00am - 11:00ish  
**WHERE:** Several Meeting Locations

- \*Lake Accotink Trail entrance Ellet and Inverchapel Road
- \*Lake Accotink Marina
- \*Lake Accotink Trail entrance at the end of Danbury Forest/Lonsdale Dr.
- \*Lake Accotink Trail entrance Queensbury and Hatteras

**Register:** [https://volunteer.fairfaxcounty.gov/custom/1383/organization\\_detail/71553](https://volunteer.fairfaxcounty.gov/custom/1383/organization_detail/71553)  
**ACTIVITIES:** Pick-up or bring your own trash bags from FLAP Volunteer and hit the trail to fill your trash bags with debris carelessly dumped, dropped  
**Note:** Long sleeves, gloves, boots and long pants are encouraged

**DONATIONS:** Mail to FLAP P.O. Box 1203 Springfield VA 22151  
 Send an e-mail to [contact@flapaccotink.org](mailto:contact@flapaccotink.org) for additional Volunteer opportunities.



**SERVICE HOURS**

[facebook.com/2110404464](https://www.facebook.com/2110404464)  
[twitter.com/accotinkfriends](https://twitter.com/accotinkfriends)  
[www.flapaccotink.org](http://www.flapaccotink.org)

**ALL AGES**

# Friends of Lake Accotink Park FLAP



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## LAKE ACCOTINK PARK STAFF NOTES



### **Sarah Oberther, CPRP Acting Park Manager Lake Accotink Park:**

I have managed golf facilities for the Fairfax County Park Authority for 15 years; spending the past seven years as the manager of Pinecrest Golf Course in Alexandria, VA. I have been involved in the academic community teaching at Northern Virginia Community College and also have several years of experience working in park settings as well as nature centers. I strive to be a leader in customer service and innovation by promoting golf and recreation to diverse audiences through different venues such as SNAG (“Starting New At Golf”) and at community special events. My goal is to work with FLAP and promote the Fairfax County Park Authority and the benefits of quality parks and recreation facilities, programs and community based activities. I will be stationed at Lake Accotink starting in October through February.

### **Lake Accotink Winter Events and Programs, January – March 2020**

For more information or to register for classes or events, please visit <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/lake-accotink>

#### **Homeschool at the Lake – Winter Classes**

This program for school children focuses on the natural and historical world. A different topic and hands-on activities are covered each month. Cost is \$7 per child.

Thursday January 9, 1:30-2:30 pm: Theme – Hibernation

Thursday February 13, 1:30-2:30 pm: Theme – Snow

Thursday March 9, 1:30-2:30 pm: Theme – Almost Spring

#### **Art at Accotink—Winter Classes**

Learn fundamental skills in a variety of art genres, and take home a nature-themed project at the end of each class. A different topic each session. Cost is \$24 per person, \$2 supply fee is payable to the instructor at class.

Thursday January 14, 1:30-2:30 pm: Theme – Drawing

Thursday February 11, 1:30-2:30 pm: Theme – Painting

Thursday March 10, 1:30-2:30 pm: Theme – Sewing

#### **Scouting badges**

Register your troop to earn your Naturalist, Hiker, Explorer, Night Owl, Trailblazing, Make the World a Better Place, Animal Habitats, or Trees Naturalist Badge at Accotink. For more details or to sign-up visit <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/lake-accotink>

Need to report damage or maintenance concerns? Please call the visitor center, 703-569-3464. We appreciate your support!

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## U.S. EPA Region 3 Outreach

We have reached out to U.S. EPA, Region 3 in hopes of securing a guest speaker for our December general meeting. We were provided with several helpful links to EPA tools and data provided by Gina N. Soscia, Office of Public Affairs, U.S. EPA, Region 3. Use the links below to use the EPA tools and view the environmental data of Lake Accotink, Accotink Creek and much more:

### WATERS GeoViewer

#### Description

The WATERS GeoViewer tool is an EPA GeoPlatform based web mapping application that provides access to

- spatial data sets stored in [WATERS](#), such as [NHDPlus](#), EPA and Non-EPA Linked Data.
- Watershed level reports containing both [NHDPlus](#) and [StreamCat](#) information.
- Linked Data information, along with hyperlinks to web reports containing additional attribute information.
- interactive [Upstream / Downstream Search](#) capabilities supporting Linked Data discovery.
- interactive [Watershed Delineation](#).
- underlying EPA GeoPlatform items that can be used to create other mapping applications.



Click on the map to launch the application

<https://www.epa.gov/tmdl/resources-tools-and-databases-about-impaired-waters-and-tmdls>

<https://www.epa.gov/waterdata/waters-geoviewer>

For the stream segment	Value
Stream Name	Accotink Creek
Stream Order	8
Stream Level	2
Mean annual flow volume (estimate)	67,28 cfs
Mean annual flow velocity (estimate)	Not available
Stream Length	2.50 miles
Stream Time of Travel (estimate)	00:00:00

View catchment and watershed data from either the NHDPlus or StreamCat datasets by clicking on the appropriate tab below:

[NHDPlus Catchment and Watershed Data](#) [StreamCat Catchment and Watershed Data](#)

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## Winter Wildlife

By Katherine E. Edwards, Ph.D., Certified Wildlife Biologist®  
Fairfax County Wildlife Management Specialist  
Fairfax County Police Department – Animal Services Division

**Winter** – with its colder temperatures and scarce food supplies - make it a tough time for wildlife throughout the United States. The winter cold might have you worried for wildlife, wondering where they go or how they find food in harsh conditions. It's easy for humans to bundle up with coats, scarves and gloves or seek shelter in the warmth indoors, but how do wild animals survive the winter months? Wildlife have evolved many adaptations to cope with the winter conditions.

**Migration:** Wildlife often migrate to more hospitable habitats before winter weather arrives. Many bird species migrate south to environments with more favorable conditions, sometimes travelling up to thousands of miles! We have many winter bird residents that migrate from northern habitats, some of which you might see in your backyard. You may observe dark-eyed juncos, white-throated sparrows, or purple finches at your feeder. However, not all birds migrate, and the wintertime becomes a great season to bird watch with the lack of foliage on trees. You might observe year-round resident birds of prey, such as red-shouldered hawks, red-tailed hawks, or coopers hawks, perched on trees stalking their prey. Other hawk species, such as northern harriers, migrate south to our area and take up residence during the winter.

**Fattening up:** Food becomes more scarce and harder to get as winter wears on. To prepare for winter, many wildlife species, including deer, squirrels, chipmunks and bears, spend the fall building up their fat reserves by feasting on high calorie, fatty foods such as acorns, hickory nuts and other forms of mast. Throughout autumn, bears forage for the majority of the day and can eat up to 20,000 calories daily in preparation for winter denning. Other species will store food in caches that they can access at later times. For example, beavers will cut trees and stockpile branches in an underwater “pantry” anchored by mud that they can keep safe under iced-over waterbodies to last them through the winter. Foxes opportunistically hunt their prey during the winter. They eat small mammals, such as mice, squirrels, and rabbits, and may deposit food in holes beneath snow and leave urine markings to help them relocate their surplus stash.

**A special note about deer:** Though winter food may be limited, it is important to refrain from feeding deer. Deer gradually shift their diet throughout the year and adjust to harsher winter conditions by slowing their food consumption, eating mostly woody browse, and using stored fat reserves. Not only is the feeding of deer illegal this time of year, but it can have deadly consequences for nutritionally-stressed deer. When ruminants (deer) get ahold of large quantities of supplemental foods, such as corn, grain, apples or hay, that are not normally found in their diet this time of year, they lack the microorganisms in their stomach to digest the food. Supplemental feeding of deer during winter can shock their systems by reducing their ability to digest food and/or lead to a buildup of toxins in their system which can be fatal. ***For their well-being, please do not feed the deer!***



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## **WINTER WILDLIFE Continued**

**Pelage/coat changes:** As winter approaches, many mammals trade in their summer hair coat for a thick, dense winter coat to trap body heat and provide insulation. Deer grow a soft, dense undercoat of wooly fur, topped with longer, dark guard hairs. Coyotes, foxes and raccoons also bulk up their coat for winter and often appear much larger this time of year. Instead of hiding out in a den, red foxes will often just curl up right out in the open with their bushy tail wrapped around their body for warmth. You may also hear them vocalizing more during winter (known as the vixen's scream) as foxes (and coyotes) enter their breeding seasons.

Some wildlife species' coats or feathers are able to repel water and provide insulation from cold weather. Aquatic furbearers, such as otters, beavers, minks, and muskrats, have a double layer of fur on which they often rub body oils, waterproofing the coat. Birds also rub oil on their feathers for waterproofing protection and fluff the feathers to trap warm air. While many animals are able to cope with the harsh cold, some are less well-adapted to winter weather. Unlike many other mammals, opossums don't have furry tails or ears which makes them especially vulnerable to the winter cold and more susceptible to frostbite. Following harsh winters, you may see opossums with evidence of injury on their extremities from exposure.

**Seeking shelter:** Many wildlife species build dens or burrows or roost in cavities to avoid the harsh winter weather. Birds will seek out a variety of unconventional shelters – both natural and human-made – to stay warm on bitterly cold nights. Gray squirrels build nests in trees out of leaves, small branches, and moss for insulation. Flying squirrels nest communally in small tree cavities, huddling together in a tight mass for warmth, but also sometimes take up residence in attics. Raccoons seek out hollow trees or underground burrows to use as dens. They may also opportunistically use abandoned human structures as dens. Bats either migrate south to warmer climates or hibernate during the harsh winter months. Hibernating bats seek out environments with stable temperature and humidity levels, such as caves, mines, and rock crevices for their winter hibernacula. Some species may utilize manmade structures such as attics, barns, or bridges. Reptiles and amphibians also seek shelter from the cold, winter elements in various ways such as burrowing below the frost line, digging themselves into mud at the bottom of a pond or stream, taking cover in cracks and crevices in logs or rocks, or hiding under leaf litter.

**Slowing down:** Many wildlife species undergo periods of dormancy in the winter in which an animal becomes less physiologically active, growth stops, and metabolic processes slow down. Hibernation is a state of inactivity where wildlife undergo changes, such as lowered body temperature, decreased heart rate, slowed breathing and lower metabolic rate. That allows them to burn their body's fat reserves much more slowly than if they were awake and active. True hibernators, such as groundhogs, disappear when the weather gets bad and "sleep" until spring and better conditions arrive. Groundhogs generally retreat to underground burrows from October through February in Virginia. Other species, like skunks, raccoons, and bears, enter a lesser form of hibernation called torpor to conserve energy. They tend to slow down into a lighter "sleep" but not to the extent of true hibernators. Often, these animals will have reduced activity during periods of severe weather and emerge once the weather breaks to search for food. This can last from a period of a few days to several months depending on the species and winter conditions.

***The Fairfax County Animal Protection Police can be reached through the Police non-emergency number at 703-691-2131.***



# Friends of Lake Accotink Park FLAP



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## FAIRFAX COUNTY and FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY NOTES



### *LAKE ACCOTINK PROJECT AND PLAN UPDATE*



**Charles Smith, Branch Chief, Fairfax County Department of Public Works and Environmental Services Stormwater Planning Division, Watershed Projects Implementation Branch - Central**

Charles will be attending our General Membership meeting 19 December to discuss Lake Accotink dredging, the Flag Run stream restoration, the Long Branch Central Watershed Management Area restoration, and other projects in the Accotink watershed.

*Lake Accotink Park CIP dredging project was presented to the BOS budget committee on 17 September. You can download the presentation and the 2020-2024 CIP at (<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/budget/board-supervisors-budget-committee-meeting-september-17-2019>) you can also watch the presentation on channel 16 at <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/cableconsumer/channel-16/fairfax-county-government-television>*

## RECOMMENDED DREDGING STRATEGY

### Description

- Dredge to restore lake to average 8 ft depth
- Pump sediment to Wakefield Park for dewatering and disposal
- Fund maintenance dredging program to maintain lake
- Retains aesthetic and recreation value of the lake

**Dredging Cost: \$ 30,500,000**

**Periodic Maintenance Dredging Annualized Cost: \$2,013,000**

**30 Year Lifecycle Dam Repair: \$4,700,000**

### **Dredging Order of Magnitude Cost Estimate**

Initial Dredging	Contingency	Total
\$24.5M	\$6.0M	\$30.5M

### **Annualized Costs**

Maintenance Dredging	Dam Maintenance	Total
\$2.0M	\$0.013M	\$2.013M

### **30 Year Lifecycle Dam Repair & Upgrades**

**\$4.7M in Year 30**

LAKE ACCOTINK KEY DATES	
Sept 2019	Advertise for Design Consultant
Sept 18, 2019	Public Master Plan Meeting
Oct 29, 2019	BOS Meeting Scope and Funding Strategy for Approval
Jan 31, 2020	Award Consultant Contract for Design & Permitting
March 31, 2020	Submit Request for VCWRLF Loan
June 30, 2020	Park Authority Complete Master Plan
Sept 30, 2020	State Approve VCWRLF Loan
Jan 31, 2021	Award Dredging Contract
March 1, 2021	Commence Dredging
March 1, 2021	Complete Dredging
March 1, 2021	Complete Permit Compliance Monitoring

# Friends of Lake Accotink Park FLAP



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## FLAP LAKE ACCOTINK – FLAP **NEW** WebSite

### FLAP THANK YOU to OUR WebMaster



We would like to extend our thanks to our webmaster Mike Burns, for his patience, expertise, and steadfastness for working with us to develop and our **NEW** Friends of Lake Accotink WebSite –

***flapaccotink.org*** We are gathering suggestions and making improvements – please visit our website (includes our social media feeds, events, news and much more) - let us know what you think. We would also like to extend our thanks to Friends Of Accotink Creek for hosting the FLAP link for many years. [contact@flapaccotink.org](mailto:contact@flapaccotink.org)



## THANKING BRADDOCK SUPERVISOR JOHN COOK

Friends of Lake Accotink Park FLAP board members Tony Vellucci, Jim Hickey, Meghan Walker and Dave Gibson, present Braddock District Supervisor John Cook with the FLAP certificate of appreciation for his many years of support to Lake Accotink Park and FLAP Saturday 14th December 2019.

**John Cook Supervisor, Braddock District Fairfax County**



In recognition of your efforts guiding the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors voting unanimously on 29 October 2019 to fund the plan to save Lake Accotink, approving an initial wet dredge of the lake to an average 8-foot depth, and regular dredging in future years. Working over the last two years with County agencies and various community groups including Friends of Accotink Creek, Friends of Lake Accotink Park, Save Lake Accotink, and neighboring civic and homeowner associations, you ensured the community had a voice in the planning process; further, you also committed the County to continue working with the community to mitigate any adverse environmental impacts caused by the dredging and dewatering – a key accomplishment being that no trucks will use neighborhood streets to move sediment. Your support for Lake Accotink Park over the last 10 years – including Braddock Nights and the annual Cardboard Boat Regatta - has been a positive contribution not only to citizens of the Braddock District, but to all Fairfax County citizens who visit the park. On behalf of the Lake Accotink Park community – Thank you! FLAP Board of Directors

# Friends of Lake Accotink Park FLAP



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## THANKING BRADDOCK SUPERVISOR JOHN COOK

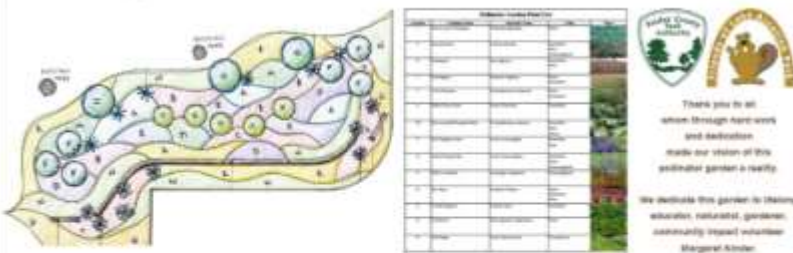
Friends of Lake Accotink Park - FLAP board members Tony Vellucci, Jim Hickey, Meghan Walker and Dave Gibson, John Cook Braddock District Supervisor and incoming Braddock District Supervisor, James Wakinshaw; host the interim dedication of the Margaret Kinder Education and Pollinator Garden at Lake Accotink Park. Honoring Margaret Kinder for her decades of service to Lake Accotink Park, the Ravensworth Community, and the Fairfax through this dedication his many years of support to Lake Accotink Park and FLAP Saturday 14th December 2019. Formal dedication is scheduled for May-June 2020

### The Margaret Kinder Education and Pollinator Garden

Thank you to all whom through hard work and dedication made our vision of this pollinator garden a reality. We dedicate this garden to lifelong educator, naturalist, gardener, community impact volunteer Margaret Kinder.



### The Margaret Kinder Education and Pollinator Garden



An educator and gardener, Margaret's skill, hard work and dedication to bring forth beauty from the soil is an inspiration to all

This relocation and expansion of the garden found Margaret not only digging holes for the new plants, but teaching old and young alike how to do it. She has cultivated young minds and plants so they can grow and prosper.

The Friends of Lake Accotink Park-FLAP take great pride in dedicating the Margaret Kinder Educational and Pollinator Garden.

For additional information about FLAP's mission, impact, volunteering and more visit: [flapaccotink.org](http://flapaccotink.org)

Margaret was born in Sumter, SC and grew up on a farm in nearby Horatio. She learned to love gardening, as a member of the Ravensworth Garden Club she has tended the pollinator garden here at Lake Accotink Park for years. The semi-annual cleanup would find her in the traffic circle weeding and hoeing, and recruiting others to assist. This relocation and expansion of the garden found Margaret not only digging holes for the new plants, but teaching old and young alike how to do it. She has cultivated young minds and plants so they can grow and prosper.

The Friends of Lake Accotink Park take great pride in dedicating the Margaret Kinder Educational and Pollinator Garden.

On behalf of the Lake Accotink Park community – Thank you!

FLAP Board of Directors



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## The Sign - Rocks and Dedication



Dedication Banner



Words about the garden/why/who..



**BIG ROCKS**

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## Before "HARD WORK" After





# Friends of Lake Accotink Park FLAP



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## Seeking Management Stability at Lake Accotink Park



**Julie Tahan**  
**Lake Accotink Park Manager**  
**June 2003 to April 2018**  
**Now: Park Operations**  
**(Unstaffed park sites):**



**Joshua Smith,**  
**Lake Accotink Park Manager**  
**October 2018 to July 2019**  
**Now: Park Manager at Lee**  
**District Park and RECenter**



**Anthony Bulmer,**  
**Lake Accotink Park Acting**  
**Park Manager**  
**July 2019 to October 2019**  
**Now: Burke Lake Park**  
**Acting Manager**



**Sarah Oberther,**  
**Lake Accotink Park Acting**  
**Park Manager**  
**Oct 2019 to Feb 2020**  
**(scheduled to rotate out)**

As we welcome our newest Acting Lake Accotink Park manager on-board (we do look forward to working with Sara), we have also expressed our concerns to FCPA concerning the lack of LAP management stability and communications. As you can see above, in just a little over two years Lake Accotink Park has had two full time managers and two acting managers. At this time there is no full time Lake Accotink Park Manager position identified to fill. The stability of a full time Lake Accotink Park Manager is very important to the community and to Friends of Lake Accotink Park – FLAP. Establishing and filling the Lake Accotink Park Managers position will not only adhere to the FCPA LAP-FLAP MOU but it will also ensure critical single point of coordination, communications with to the staff and leadership at FCPA and LAP continues.

The Friends of Lake Accotink Board would like to thank Christopher Goldbecker, Fairfax County Park Authority, and Managed Parks Section Manager, for his efforts to ensure stable and continued communications with the LAP acting management and FLAP. Chris has many properties to manage - under his leadership we have continued our monthly project, events, and program activities meetings. We do look forward to welcoming a dedicated Lake Accotink Park Manager in the near future.

### **Events Projects FLAP is working:**

Fall Watershed Clean Up Day / Spring Watershed Clean Up Day / Monthly Park Clean Ups  
Cardboard Boat Regatta / Braddock Nights / Howl'o'ween Dog Costume Contest  
Pictures with Santa / Mussel Rescue Parties / Winterize the facilities Clean and maintain marina and surrounding area/  
Educational Programs / Annual Bird Count Dog Waste Stations/ Community outreach /Butterfly Garden Dedication –  
Maintenance Social Media outreach / Core Area Clean-up / Storage Shed/ Spring Fling / WebSite / Fundraisers (Fun Run-  
BBQ-Scavenger Hunt/Horse Day/Clinic's/LAP Generated Funds – Revenue/ ID FCPA – Other LAP Projects

# Friends of Lake Accotink Park FLAP



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## PHOTOS





# Friends of Lake Accotink Park FLAP



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## SOUND OFF - OUR LAKE ACCOTINK PARK

By Karole Nielsen

### Why Pet Waste stands?

The FLAP pet waste stands along the Lake Accotink trail are an important part of keeping our watershed safe and clean. When pet waste is washed into lakes or streams the waste decays, it uses up oxygen and sometimes releases ammonia. Pet waste also contains nutrients that encourage weed and algae growth. Conveniently placed stands and waste bins along with signs educating dog owners about the problem will hopefully encourage use by all dog owners who use the trail. If all dog lovers who use park do their part, we can continue to enjoy a safe and beautiful lake for years to come.

### Dogs on the Trail

We observed quite a few four legged friends enjoying a walk on the trail over the holiday weekend. The pet waste stands at Lake Accotink received a good cleaning last month prior to the application of new sponsorship stickers to the four stands along the trail. Dog walkers now have a QR code that can direct them to a new donation link at [flapaccotink.org](http://flapaccotink.org). Another 1600 bags were placed in the stands at the start of November and remain an important part of keeping our watershed safe and clean. The Fairfax County Park Authority reminds us that we share our parks with other people, wildlife and pets. Unleashed animals may harm or kill wildlife and vice versa. Off leash dogs can end up in unwanted encounters with small mammals, poisonous snakes, ticks, and itchy poison ivy. Leashes keep our pets from getting lost, running into traffic, and annoying or scaring other park visitors. Leashes are not optional on the trail. Over the holiday weekend we rounded a curve on the trail and gasped as an unleashed 75 pound, off leash dog barreled toward an elderly woman walking with a cane. The dog weighed almost as much as she did and came within inches of knocking her completely off her feet. Pet owners must demonstrate their commitment to safety for both people and pets by obeying leash laws.

Don't let the cold keep you from a winter stroll in our beautiful park. Bundle up, get out, and enjoy!

**NOTE:** FLAP funds the Dog Waste Stations (donate at the GM meeting or mail to FLAP at P.O. Box 1203, Springfield VA 22151). Your tax deductible donations will be accepted through our donation link at [flapaccotink.org](http://flapaccotink.org).



# Friends of Lake Accotink Park FLAP



**ISSUE 04**

**December 2019**

## SOUND OFF

### FLAP Storage Shed – Update

Several years ago our FLAP storage shed was broken into and all our tools (used to clean and maintain Lake Accotink trails, lake shoreline and streams) were stolen. Our current shed is unstable and being used to store firewood; resulting in our volunteer members hauling the tools and supplies to every event. We are working with the park to obtain their approval for the construction of a new FLAP storage shed to be located across from the Margaret Kinder Education and Pollinator Garden.



Old FLAP Storage Shed – set for demolition

New FLAP Storage Shed will be located across from The Margaret Kinder Education and Pollinator Garden.



### Beaver Dam removal at LAP trail marker 2.5





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**Sound Off – Continued:**  
**Completed Access Road Repaving – Great Job**



# Friends of Lake Accotink Park FLAP



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## YOUNG FLAPers



### **The Climate Crisis: We Care**

**By Yasmine L. Marrero, Edison High School Student**

During November's Lake Accotink clean-up, a group of young girls from Girl Scouts came to help volunteers collect trash. The girls were always giddy and excited when they found something to collect, and left knowing a lot more about habitats and animals than when they first arrived. This is one of the many ways to get youth involved in environmental issues, which is crucial for the sustainability movement that focuses on the restoration and maintenance of natural ecosystems. How can we maximize this engagement in the community?

Youth involvement is extremely important for environmental causes. They are at the heart of the sustainability debate as they are the ones who will have to live with the consequences of today's actions. Because they have the power to advocate for solutions that will affect the rest of their lives, they must be willing to change the system and influence change themselves. The youth must take action and inspire others to do so with them if they are to save their future.

In order to inspire children and teens to get involved with sustainability, you must expose them to nature and the things that threaten it. Early-on involvement is necessary for them to learn about and care for the environment. Exposure can be as simple as taking kids for walks or hikes in local parks. Taking day or camping trips to national parks is also a great way to get them interested and excited about nature. What better way can they learn to appreciate the simple things?

Children must also learn about what threatens their environment, like pollution and climate change. Teaching your kids about sustainability and how to help local plants and animals is very important. It can spark their curiosity and get them more involved in ecological issues. Forming good habits is a great way to teach your children about sustainability and how to leave their environment better than they found it. You can start taking your kids to clean-ups in the area or encourage them to participate in activities at school to further interest them in these issues. If they're old enough, you can even take your tweens and teens to peaceful protests to advocate for the protection of their environment.

The youth of today have already proven themselves to be very influential in addressing modern problems. When exposed to issues, they have learned to take action and find solutions. By nurturing children today, we can influence them to act on issues they are passionate about. We need to encourage engagement with the environment, because involving children today will help lead the movement to a better tomorrow. Sustaining the natural environment needs everyone's involvement.

# Friends of Lake Accotink Park FLAP



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## COMMUNICATIONS and OUTREACH

### *Positions OPEN – Volunteer(s) Needed*

*Make a positive impact - Volunteer any amount of time to help lead or serve on any of the below committees (a few hours a month). Join us at our many volunteer events. Minimum age to serve on a committee is 16 – no maximum age. The majority of our activities / events are perfect for the entire family – we provide service hours.*

POSITION	NAME	e-Mail
Membership	Elissa Myers	membership@flapaccotink.org
Community Outreach and Communications	OPEN	communications@flapaccotink.org
Stewardship	OPEN	stewardship@flapaccotink.org
Recreation	OPEN	recreation@flapaccotink.org
Fundraising	OPEN	fundraising @flapaccotink.org
Special Projects	OPEN	specialprojects @flapaccotink.org

***\*\*Please Submit your articles for next quarters FLAP Newsletter  
“Sound Off” and “Young FLAPers” sections to:  
communications@flapaccotink.org***

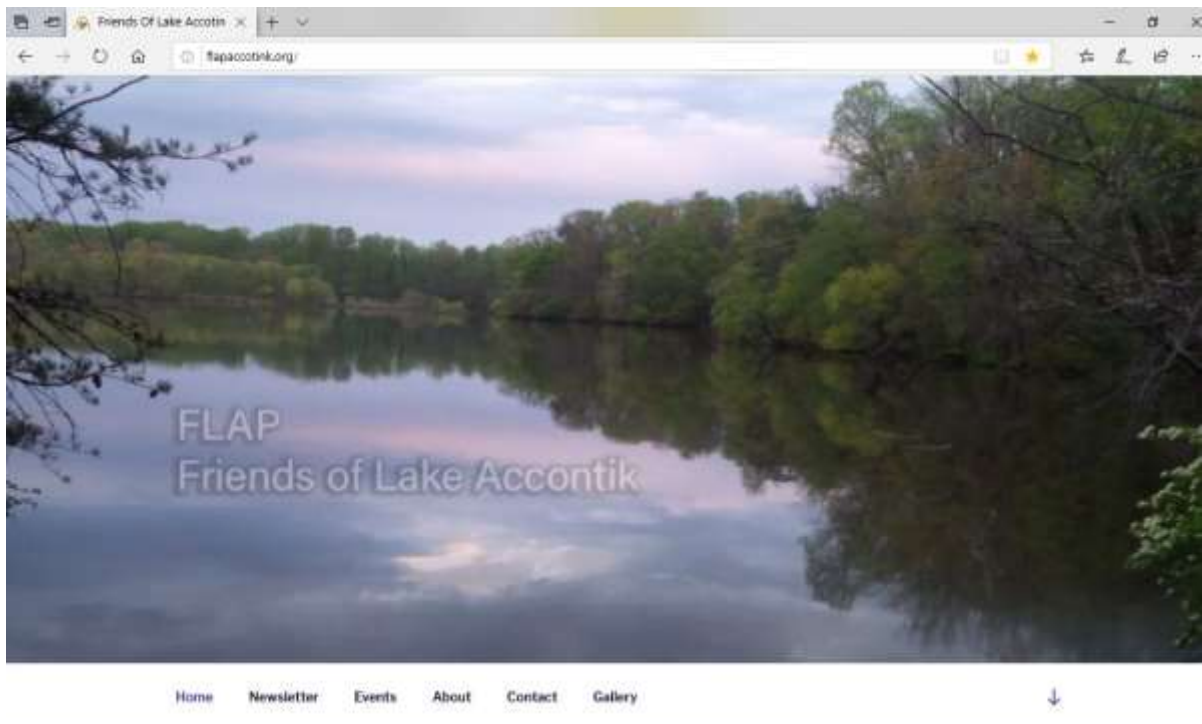


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[www.twitter.com/accotinkfriends](https://www.twitter.com/accotinkfriends)

[www.flapaccotink.org](http://www.flapaccotink.org)

[@friendsoflakeaccotinkpark](https://www.facebook.com/friendsoflakeaccotinkpark)

[Contact@flapaccotink.org](mailto:Contact@flapaccotink.org)

Mail Donations to:

FLAP or Friends of Lake Accotink Park

P.O. Box 1203, Springfield, VA 22151

