

# Friends of Lake Accotink Park FLAP



ISSUE 03

September 2019

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## NOTES FROM THE BOARD

Mary Keeser, President FLAP

Thank you for your continued feedback and recommendations.

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 Tony Bulmer as Acting Manager of Lake Accotink Park. Tony brings a wealth of expertise, and knowledge to Lake Accotink Park, having over nineteen years' experience with FCPA. We look forward to continuing working with you Tony. We are very pleased to announce Adam Wynn will be our upcoming General Membership meeting guest speaker. Please plan on joining us 26 September 7:30 at 5610 Inverchapel Rd, Springfield.

Critical to our overall success are our Committee Directors, members and volunteers.

We need your talents, skills, and dedication to lead or work (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	president@flapaccotink.org
Vice President	Anthony Vellucci	Vice.President@flapaccotink.org
Secretary	Jim Hickey	secretary@flapaccotink.org
Treasurer	Meghan Walker	treasurer@flapaccotink.org
Member At Large	Dave Gibson	memberAL@flapaccotink.org

<https://www.facebook.com/friendsoflakeaccotinkpark/>

<https://www.twitter.com/accotinkfriends>

<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***



# Friends of Lake Accotink Park FLAP



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## CRITTER OF THE QUARTER

### *Great Blue Heron*



By Jim Hickey, FLAP Secretary and Past President

When you see that large bird in the air with very slow wingbeats, a tucked-in neck and long, trailing legs you know it is the majestic great blue heron. One of the favorite animals found at Lake Accotink Park, this heron is found through most of North America. A year round resident in the southern part of the continent, it will migrate to areas that ice over in the winter.

Hérons help control fish population, feeding primarily on small fish. They can adapt to almost any wetland habitat – marshes, swamps, lakes, streams, shorelines, anywhere fish are present. But they will eat shrimp, crab, and small mammals, amphibians and reptiles. They wade or just stand in water up to two feet deep, spot their dinner and strike quickly with their long neck and bill. Herons are often found near an active beaver population, as those swimmers create areas perfect for heron foraging and nesting.

Great blue herons never stray far from the water, usually nesting in tall trees, sometimes bushes. They often nest on small islands, as this lessens the threat from some predators. Their eggs and nestlings are prey for raccoons, turkey vultures, ravens, crows and hawks. Adults are threatened only by alligators and crocodiles down south, and eagles, though rarely.

Full-grown herons stand about five feet tall, with a wingspan reaching six feet. Very lightweight at about six pounds, they can fly over twenty miles per hour. They mate with only one partner a year, and produce three to five eggs. Both male and female help raise the young in breeding colonies.

Florida has a white version of the heron, and all are protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Herons are elegant in flight, especially when taking off or landing.

Their popularity is evident by how many things are named after them. There are Great Blue Heron restaurants, golf courses, apartment complexes and parks across the land. New York boasts a Great Blue Heron music festival and Ohio is home to the Great Blue Heron brewery. So the next time you see one, take some time to just watch and enjoy the view.

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## FLAP UPCOMING MEETINGS – EVENTS

By Meghan Walker

<https://www.facebook.com/friendsoflakeaccotinkpark/>

SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
9/19- Public meeting on Lake Accotink Master Plan	10/12- FCPA Cleanup at Lake Accotink	11/10- FLAP monthly cleanup	12/8- FLAP monthly cleanup
9/26- FLAP General Meeting and Lake Accotink Master Plan Update	10/13- FLAP monthly cleanup and Pollinator Garden care		12/12- FLAP General Meeting
	10/19 FCPA Fall Festival at Lake Accotink		

**NOTE:** Service Hours Provided For All FLAP Volunteer Activities: <https://www.flapaccotink.org>  
[https://volunteer.fairfaxcounty.gov/custom/1380/#/organization\\_details/71653](https://volunteer.fairfaxcounty.gov/custom/1380/#/organization_details/71653)



## Help Lake Accotink VOLUNTEER



**ALL AGES**

**contact@flapaccotink.org**

<https://www.facebook.com/friendsoflakeaccotinkpark/>

<https://www.twitter.com/accotinkfriends>






**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/1380/#/organization\\_details/71653](https://volunteer.fairfaxcounty.gov/custom/1380/#/organization_details/71653)

**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.

# Friends of Lake Accotink Park FLAP



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## LAKE ACCOTINK STAFF NOTES



**Anthony Bulmer,  
Acting Park Manager Lake Accotink Park:**

I have worked for Fairfax County Park Authority for nineteen years. I spent the first fourteen years as a naturalist with the Resource Management Department. My last four have been with the lakefront section as the person in charge of anything nature related, from programs to hiring naturalists. Before working for the park authority I was in the United States Airforce and received an honorable discharge. I can name every bird, reptile, amphibian and mammal that moves in Fairfax County. I am honored to work at Lake Accotink Park and look forward to meeting the people of FLAP.

**NOTE:** Tony will be attending all FLAP General Membership meetings

**Operations:** Park Hours: 7:00 AM – 7:30 PM

The Marina new operation hours: Weekends/Holidays 10:00 AM – 8:00 PM,  
Weekday hours, 2:00 PM – 8:00 PM, begin June 17<sup>th</sup>

**Programming and Events:**

Registration is open for **summer camp**. Popular offerings like our Dog Obedience Series, Mountain Biking classes, and Kayak classes are already starting to fill up don't miss your chance to register. Lake Accotink has expanded its summer camp offerings and now has truly unique summer camp experiences for your child(ren). Find a complete list of programs, events and camps on our website, <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/lake-accotink/classes-camps>.

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	3
Mean annual flow volume (estimate)	97,228 cfs
Mean annual flow velocity (estimate)	Not Available
Stream Length	2.50 km
Stream Time of Travel (estimate)	00:09:00

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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## **Don't Feed the Animals: Wildlife Feeding Facts**

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

Many people enjoy feeding wildlife because it allows them to have close encounters with animals; others believe it is contributing to the overall health and survival of the animal. It may seem harmless to offer a few snacks here and there, but providing food to wild animals can have unintended consequences for both humans and wildlife. Animals of primary concern include raccoon, fox, deer, black bear, coyote and waterfowl.

### **Human and Animal Safety**

Feeding of wildlife can threaten both human and animal safety. As wild animals are fed they tend to lose their natural fear of humans. This can create potentially dangerous situations when wild animals begin to associate people with food. There have been instances in county parks where animals, such as foxes, have approached people in picnic areas or along trails because they were accustomed to being fed. Feeding wildlife can also lead to aggression and competition among other wild animals, leading to fighting and injury, when populations become concentrated and animals are in closer contact than would naturally occur.

### **Diseases**

Feeding wildlife increases the chance for rapid spread of disease by concentrating animals in higher numbers over a short period of time—more than they would normally experience under natural conditions. Healthy animals may become infected by direct contact with other animals or by eating contaminated feed, ingesting contaminated feces, or nearby vegetation. Any diseases, infections or parasites can be spread more readily under these conditions (e.g. rabies, distemper, parvovirus, mange, viral enteritis (aka “duck plague”), avian cholera, aspergillosis, chronic wasting disease, roundworm). Some of these diseases that affect wildlife also have human health implications.

### **Nutrition**

Wild animals require a balanced diet for proper growth and development just like people do. Typically, many of the food items that people present to wildlife (such as bread, corn, popcorn, pastries) equate to junk food that do not provide proper nutrients. Artificial feeding can lead to malnutrition and serious health problems for wildlife. For example, waterfowl who are fed artificial foods, like bread, and suffer from poor nutrition can develop a permanent deformity called Angel Wing, which renders them unable to fly. Feeding may also impact the ability of young animals to develop necessary foraging skills to survive once they are taught to depend on human-provided food.

### **Environmental Impacts**

Crowding of animals at feeding sites may also damage the local habitat including accumulations of droppings or trampled vegetation.

It is for these reasons that state and local authorities have implemented restrictions on feeding wildlife.

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## **Don't Feed the Animals: Wildlife Feeding Facts (Continued)**

### **Park Rules- Feeding of Wildlife Prohibited**

Fairfax County Park Authority regulations prohibit the feeding of any wild animal within a park unless the feeding is expressly authorized by the Park Authority by either a posted sign or in writing (§1.22 Wildlife and Habitat Protection – Part B. Feeding of Wild Animals).

### **State Regulations – Administered by the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries**

It is against the law to feed deer from September 1st through the last Sunday in April in Fairfax County. It is also illegal to feed bears – whether intentionally or inadvertently- in Virginia year-round. Additionally, it is unlawful to place, distribute, or allow the placement of food, minerals, carrion, trash, or similar substances when it attracts any species of wildlife in such numbers or circumstances to cause property damage, endanger any person or wildlife, or create a public health concern.

Please see the links below for the full text within the Virginia Administrative Code.

4VAC15-40-285. Unauthorized Feeding of Cervids.

<https://law.lis.virginia.gov/admincode/title4/agency15/chapter40/section285/>

4VAC15-40-282. Unauthorized Feeding of Bear.

<https://law.lis.virginia.gov/admincode/title4/agency15/chapter40/section282/>

4VAC15-40-286. Unauthorized Feeding of Wildlife.

<http://law.lis.virginia.gov/admincode/title4/agency15/chapter40/section286>

What we do in the parks impacts our wildlife community. Even though it may seem like a minor thing to offer a few crumbs of your cookie or piece of your peanut butter sandwich, it is shaping the behavior of the wild animals we love to see, and not in a good way. Unfortunately, when wildlife problems occur, it is usually the animal that suffers and pays the price, even when it is a human-created issue. For these reasons, please do not feed wildlife within county parks, clean up around picnic areas, and make sure to dispose of any trash in proper receptacles or remove it when you leave the park. Help us to keep our parks safe and our wildlife healthy and wild!

Unless the animal is sick or injured, or poses a threat to public safety, the Fairfax County Animal Protection Police do not take actions to remove bears from a neighborhood. Bear sightings should be reported to the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries through the Virginia Wildlife Conflict Helpline at (855) 571-9003. 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



### MASTER PLAN UPDATE

Adam Wynn, Senior Landscape Architect and Project Manager will be attending our General Membership meeting 26 September to discuss the status of the Master Plan, including LAP dredging project options and answer your questions.

The 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>



**ATTEND the FLAP GM meeting 26 September (see events section) to ask questions directly to the PM**

#### 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

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

30 Year Lifecycle Dam Repair & Upgrade	
\$4.7M in Year 33	

### LAKE ACCOTINK FINANCING OPTIONS

- Virginia Clean Water Revolving Loan Fund ("Fund")**
  - Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) program administrator of the Fund; Virginia Resources Authority (VRA) is financial manager of the Fund
  - DEQ indicated in March 2019 the Lake Accotink project is eligible for funding; all qualifying projects receive an interest rate reduction of 1% below municipal market rates
  - DEQ confirmed the County's dedicated source of stormwater revenue (\$3.25 per \$100 of Assessed Value) provides for an additional interest rate reduction of 1% below municipal market rates
  - Flexibility in debt service repayment through project completion
  - Loan would be subject to the approval of the State Water Control Board
  - Full year debt service for the entire \$30.5m estimated at \$1.5M/year per current market conditions
  - Anticipated debt service would begin in FY 2025/2026 and will be included in future STW service district budgets
- Fairfax County Economic Development Authority**
  - Fallback option to pursue project financing
  - Previous examples of projects financed include Merrifield Center, Public Safety Headquarters, and Lewinsville Center

### LAKE ACCOTINK KEY DATES

Sept 2018	Advertisement for Design Consultant
Sept 10, 2019	Public Master Plan Meeting
Oct 28, 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 POLLINATOR EDUCATIONAL GARDEN

*The garden is installed; we are using mulch supplied by FCPA along with additional mulch we will be purchasing to complete the first phase of the garden. We are in need of Volunteers to help water and maintain it.*

**INSTALLED**

**CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS TO Lake Accotink**

**THANK YOU - TO ALL OF OUR AWESOME VOLUNTEERS "WE DID IT"**

**FLAP Lake Accotink Pollinator Educational Garden**

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**  
PLANT OVER 14 VARIETIES OF PLANTS  
"Lake Accotink FLAP"  
Pollinator Educational Garden

Need for Lake Accotink Pollinator Educational Garden parking lot and bike racks - at this address: 10000 Lake Accotink Blvd, Suite 100, Lake Accotink, VA 22076. Call 541-341-1111. Email: [info@flapaccotink.org](mailto:info@flapaccotink.org)

NOTE: Please bring heavy duty gloves, spade and shovel, additional shovel if you have them.

POC: [contact@flapaccotink.org](mailto:contact@flapaccotink.org)

**Qualified, Licensed Experts**  
will be on hand to facilitate, assist and guide us through the planting

**The Sign The Bench and The Dedication**

OR

Dedication Plaque

Words about the garden/why/who...

### NEXT STEPS:

Determine location of main signs

Develop sign designs

Staff the designs for approval

Obtain approval for bench (signage on bench)

Obtain Funding for all

Develop installation schedule

Staff for approval

Dedication Ceremony

Please provide your input to

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

# Friends of Lake Accotink Park FLAP



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## SOUND OFF - OUR LAKE ACCOTINK PARK

By Karole Nielsen

### Why Pet Waste stands?

The 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.

This summer the stands along the Lake Accotink trail supplied 3200 bags to dog walkers in the Park. It is estimated that the average dog excretes .75 pounds of waste every day. <http://clearchoicescleanwater.org> (Judging from the size and weight of the dogs I see on the trail, this is a conservative estimate). If each bag contained .5 to .75 pounds of dog waste, then this summer alone the use of the stands prevented anywhere from 1200 to 2400 pounds of waste from entering the lake.

The question is often asked "Why can't dog owners bring their own bags? Many do! Some of the reasons people do not pick up their pet waste include forgetting bags at home, forgetting to buy bags, too cheap to buy bags, no waste bins nearby, don't want to carry a bag, or don't want to stop while on a power walk or run. Many believe that the waste will break down naturally in the ground and do not realize it poses a threat to the watershed. 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.

**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 <https://flapaccotink.org> shortly.



# Friends of Lake Accotink Park FLAP



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## SOUND OFF

### FLAP Storage Shed

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. Our current shed is being used to store firewood, resulting in our volunteer members hauling the tools and supplies to every event. We have asked the park to relocate our storage shed in a more visible area, after which we will fix the door, lock and add shelves and signage. We are asking you to consider this project for school credit, community project ([contact@flapaccotink.org](mailto:contact@flapaccotink.org)).



FLAP Storage Shed



Option for  
FLAP Storage  
Shed  
Relocation

Send  
suggestions to:  
[contact@flapaccotink.org](mailto:contact@flapaccotink.org)

# 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

Currently, coral reefs and sea life are dying at an alarming rate. Extreme weather is becoming more frequent, and our glaciers are melting at an alarming rate. Clear cutting and forest fires are increasing CO2 levels to heights never seen before. Global warming and climate change are facts we are aware of, but now what?

We are passing on our Earth to new generations; ones who are worried about their future home and are determined to prevent its destruction. We have a responsibility to take care of and cherish our planet. As inhabitants of it, we must band together to save this Earth from our own devastating actions.

Greta Thunberg sailed across the Atlantic to stand behind her beliefs.



While we may not have the means to do that, we can collectively send a message to big corporations that we will not stand by while they ruin our ecosystems for profit. Shopping sustainably, repurposing, and recycling greatly decreases the amount of waste we create. By engaging with the community and participating in neighborhood clean-ups, we can prevent waste from ever reaching our lakes and rivers. We can reduce our carbon footprint by walking, biking, carpooling, or taking public transportation. By planting native species, we will be providing food and a habitat for wildlife.



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we must

While we  
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Saving our planet starts with small changes that will lead to great results. Anne-Marie Bonneau, an advocate for the zero-waste lifestyle, once said “We don't need a handful of people doing zero-waste perfectly. We need millions of people doing it imperfectly”. It all starts with *you*.

# Friends of Lake Accotink Park FLAP



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## COMMUNICATIONS and OUTREACH

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

You can 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.

***\*\*Please Submit your articles for next quarters FLAP Newsletter “Sound Off” and “Young FLAPers”***

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

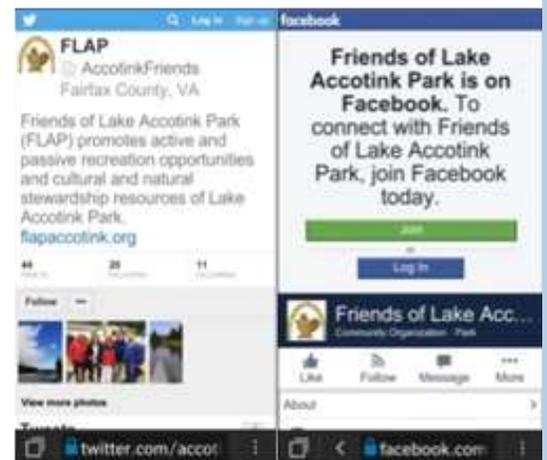
***sections to: [communications@flapaccotink.org](mailto:communications@flapaccotink.org)***

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<https://www.facebook.com/friendsoflakeaccotinkpark/>

<https://www.twitter.com/accotinkfriends>

<https://www.flapaccotink.org>

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

Mail Donations to:

FLAP or Friends of Lake Accotink Park

P.O. Box 1203, Springfield, VA 22151