

Friends of Lake Accotink Park FLAP



ISSUE 06

July 2020

Inside this issue:

[Board Notes](#)

[FLAP Information](#)

[Our Impact](#)

[Critter of the Quarter](#)

[Upcoming Meetings](#)

[and Events](#)

[Lake Accotink Park
Staff Notes](#)

[Supervisor Notes](#)

ARTICLES

[Fairfax County Park
Authority](#)

[Young FLAPers](#)

[Communications](#)

SPONSORS

[Sound Off](#)

NOTES FROM THE BOARD - Mary Keeser, President FLAP



THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS, SPONSORS AND DONORS
We cannot accomplish our Mission without you: "Protect, restore, preserve and educate all concerning the natural, historical and cultural resources of Lake Accotink Park"

It has been my honor to serve as Friends Of Lake Accotink Park-FLAP President these past two years. Working with our dedicated Board Members (Tony Vellucci, Jim Hickey, Meghan Walker and Dave Gibson), all whom have given so much of their time and talents to ensure the success of FLAP. Although the FCPA and its stakeholders are an extensive organization; I'd like to single out Chris Goldbecker, FCPA Managed Parks, Section Manager. Chris was always there to coordinate and navigate the system to find the answer or solution, often providing professional guidance and mentorship along the way. During my tenure, we experienced the assignments of four separate Acting LAP Managers, some only being in the position a few months. We are fortunate to have welcomed Dan Grulke, as our permanent Lake Accotink Park Manager. Dan's transition was seamless, and together as partners, we continue our steadfast commitment to ensuring we accomplish our mission: "Protect, restore, preserve and educate all concerning the natural, historical and cultural resources of Lake Accotink Park".

Our accomplishments: Outreach to Volunteers/ Sponsorship/ Donors/ By Laws/Articles of Incorporation. (Friends Of Lake Accotink Park) State Registration/IRS - EIN/Bank Account/ Non Profit 501c3/P.O. Box/Domaine/ Emails/Website/PayPal account / FCPA MOU/Permanent meeting and storage space/Monthly meeting with FCPA /Parktakes Outreach/FCPF / File structure and archives / Storage Shed/ Branding/Newsletter/ Projects- Activities /MKEPG – Educational Pollinator Garden/ Additional Dog Waste Stations/ Monthly Clean-Ups/FLAP Newsletter/Young FLAPers /Relationship & Communications with stakeholders / Sponsorships/Donors and so much more.

It has been my privilege to work with our amazing Volunteers and Members though all the seasons, together rolling up our sleeves and working side by side to accomplish our missions. Thank you again for allowing me to join you in taking care of our Lake Accotink Park and to educate others to do the same.

YOU CAN HELP: FLAP Board member nominees now being accepted. Critical to our success are our Committee Directors, members and volunteers. We need your talents and skills (a few hours a month). To volunteer send your contact information to contact@flapaccotink.org.

FRIENDS OF LAKE ACCOTINK BOARD

POSITION	NAME	e-Mail
President	Mary Keeser	president@flapaccotink.org
Vice President	Tony Vellucci	vice.president@flapaccotink.org
Secretary	Jim Hickey	secretary@flapaccotink.org
Treasurer	Dave Gibson	treasurer@flapaccotink.org
Member At Large	Dave Gibson	memberAL@flapaccotink.org

FAREWELL TO LONG-TIME FLAP BOARD MEMBER, MEGHAN WALKER



Meghan Walker has served the community and Friends of Lake Accotink Park for well over a decade as a steadfast, committed environmental volunteer. Meghan has held many positions within the Friends of Lake Accotink Park (FLAP) including President, Treasurer, and Communications Director; leading, planning, and participating in numerous impactful projects to the community, watershed, and grounds of Lake Accotink Park. The time and effort necessary in any volunteer organization for a President, Treasurer, or Communications Director to plan, organize, coordinate, monitor and track, direct, schedule, re-schedule, integrate, provide feedback and capture lessons learned for any one of these tasks can be significant. Considering she and a myriad of FLAP volunteers accomplished so many general advocacy, cultural, and environmental support tasks is commendable, noteworthy, and truly deserving of recognition. And during this time she also served as the Treasurer of the Danbury Forrest Community Association – no small feat in and of itself – where she helped to secure DFCA approval of an easement for the Park Authority to construct a switchback trail that spanned both DFCA and FCPA property to rectify an unsafe trail access to Lake Accotink Park. She spoke on behalf of the community association at the ribbon-cutting ceremony attended by both Chairman Sharon Bulova and Supervisor John Cook. She has volunteered and judged cardboard boats and dog costumes and many other activities for Park Authority events. She has provided significant input to the master plan process; and she has been a substitute host / master of ceremonies during the Park Authority's Summer Entertainment Series Braddock Nights at Lake Accotink Park. Megan will be missed as a FLAP Board member, but rest assured she will continue to serve her community and participate in FLAP projects and activities. Thank you Meghan from the FLAP Board

Note: We will honor Meghan for her service during an upcoming August event (details coming later)



OUR IMPACT

FLAP Volunteers continue our Positive Impact to Lake Accotink Park.



Big thank you to all of our 65+ volunteers of all ages. On Sunday, June 14, together we collected over 200 pounds of trash along the trails at the marina. With the help of Scout Troop 1131, we finished mulching the Margaret Kinder Educational Pollinator Garden and placing a rock edging around the garden. Great work everyone! For those who donated funds, thank you! We are fundraising for additional dog waste stations and the sign for our Pollinator Garden as well as many educational programs!



Thank you to Jim Bertolini and Dave Gibson for the photos above!

WOOD DUCK



By Dave Gibson, FLAP Treasurer

At Lake Accotink Park we are blessed with a variety of water fowl, from our great blue heron and the snowy egret to our cormorants and geese and ducks. Mallards are better-known and more frequently seen, but wood ducks add personality and beauty to the scene.

Wood ducks (*Aix sponsa*) range all over North America and Cuba. The male wood duck has distinctive coloration of iridescent greens, purples, and blues with an offsetting white chin patch and face stripes. His bill is mainly golden brown or reddish. Female plumage is a modest gray with a broad white eye ring. Webbed feet make them excellent swimmers.

Both sexes are generally 17 to 20 inches long with wing spans from 26 to 29 inches. The male is heavier (6.2 to 9.2 pounds vs. 4.0 to 7.7 pounds for the female). The female has the louder voice, calling "Woooo-eeek!" The male answers with a softer "Jee?" or "Terwee?"

The ability of wood ducks to nest in hollow trees or other cavities enables them to breed successfully in riparian habitats or wooded swamps where ground cover is sparse. This nesting ability also makes them eager occupants of human-made nesting boxes hung above ground (or water). They typically produce 9 to 12 whitish or tan eggs after lining the nest with down. Shortly after hatching, the young become anxious to leave the nest and will eventually jump to the ground to join their mother in an impressive flotilla.

Although they are mainly vegetarian, feeding on aquatic plants, seeds, nuts and fruits, wood ducks also eat insects, snails, tadpoles, and salamanders. Their predators include foxes, skunks, wild cats, and wolves; however, the most voracious and successful predators are snapping turtles, which can suddenly grab a duckling by a foot and drown it. (Photo credits: Tom Kinder and National Wildlife Federation)



FLAP UPCOMING MEETINGS – EVENTS



Flapaccotink.org (calendar tab) https://flapaccotink.org/?post_type=tribe_events

JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT
7/12/20 Monthly Cleanup Marina 9 am- 11 am	8/09/20 Monthly Cleanup Marina 9 am- 11 am	9/13/20 Monthly Cleanup Marina 9 am- 11 am	10/11/20 Monthly Cleanup Marina 9 am- 11 am
7/30/20 Quarterly Membership Meeting Location: Large Pavilion Starts at 7:00pm	8/29/20 Margaret Kinder Educational Garden Dedication 9am ON HOLD	9/17/20 Quarterly Membership Meeting 5610 Inverchapel Rd, Springfield. Starts at 7:30pm	

2020 FLAP GENERAL MEMBERSHIP and ALLIANCE(s) MEETING SCHEDULE

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

TIME: 7:00pm to 8:30pm

DATES: On Thursday– July 30 (see different location below)

TITLE: FLAP Quarterly Membership Meeting

LOCATION: Large Pavilion adjacent to Pollinator Garden

DATE: 30 July 2020

TIME: 6:30 - 8:30 (meeting will start at 7pm)

FOOD/WATER: Anita's Mexican Restaurant is providing (individually wrapped) appetizers. We'll provide the water, napkins, plates. We will clean up.

September 17, December 17 LOCATION: 5610 Inverchapel Rd, Springfield. Starts at 7:30pm

LAKE ACCOTINK PARK STAFF NOTES



Dan Grulke, Manager of Lake Accotink Park

We thank the community for its continued support and usage of Lake Accotink Park during these tough and new times.

You May Have Missed This – The Lake Accotink Core Area has undergone a transformation. Through the hard work of the F.C.P.A. team, we now have new siding and roofs for our buildings, our curbs have been repainted, and the parking spaces have been relined. All Lake Accotink Park staff, including Ed Miller, Anna Hellwege-Bales, Julie Martin, Ken Fulling, Dylan Van Balen, and Marshall Yaffe, have stepped up to help get the park back open and ready for future phases of re-opening.

In the Cue – Work on the concrete walls around the marina office, the large shelter, and the turn-a-round will begin shortly. They are scheduled to be painted.

In the Works – As many of you have noticed, the storm water retention work on private property on Accotink Park Road has begun. The property owner, the contractor, and Stormwater Management have worked together to correct this issue.

Just So You Know – Park staff is dedicated to being present and visible during operating hours. The Park Manager and/or the Manager-on-Duty will be in the marina office during business hours. We aim to staff this area first, so look for us there first.

Help Us Out – Staff cannot always be everywhere all the time. If you notice safety issues during park hours, call us first. If you cannot reach us, call the non-emergency police. If you notice suspicious behavior either before or after official park hours, call non-emergency police. For more details or to sign-up visit <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/lake-accotink>. Need to report damage or maintenance concerns? Call the visitor center, 703-569-3464.

Thanks, Lake Accotink Park Staff

Meet Your Lake Accotink Park Staff



L-R Anna Hellwege-Bales Programming staff and Manager on Duty, Dylan Van Balen Naturalist/Lead Programmer/Manager on Duty, Ed Miller and Ken Fuller Maintenance Staff

Meet Your Lake Accotink Park Staff



Richard Delgado – Marina Staff



Kim Boateng- Marina Staff



Emma Hedley – Seasonal MOD



Bobby Case – Marina Staff



Jerry Martinez – Marina Staff



Paul Green – Marina Staff



Nik Rovira – Marina Supervisor



Charlie Burger – Marina Staff



John Karlinchak – Marina Staff 7

(Not Pictured) → David Lopez – Marina Staff

Chase Brown – Seasonal MOD

Grace Hogue – Seasonal MOD

Jackie Kerner – Marina Supervisor

BRADDOCK SUPERVISOR NOTES



Braddock District Supervisor, James Walkinshaw

I want to thank the Friends of Lake Accotink Park once again for your ongoing work to preserve the park, even during these difficult times. The work of the Board of Supervisors continues as well, and I'm happy to report that we're making good on our commitment to protect and improve the wonderful parks that make Fairfax County such a great place to live.

At last month's Board of Supervisors meeting, we approved a measure that will put a Parks and Park Facilities bond referendum on this November's ballot. If passed by the voters, it will bring \$100 million in much-needed funds to the Fairfax County Park Authority and contribute \$12 million to the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority.

One of the projects I'm most excited about is just upstream from Lake Accotink Park. The Park bond referendum will fund much-needed RECenter improvements, and the Park Authority plans to utilize \$20 million for the Phase 1 Renovation/Expansion of the Audrey Moore RECenter to include a new expanded fitness area, check in, multipurpose rooms, and child care area, as well as lifecycle replacement of existing building systems in accordance with the overall RECenter Sustainability Plan. As you can imagine, I'd very much appreciate your support of this referendum – make sure you vote all the way to the end of your ballot this year!

There's a lot going on in the Braddock District, and I invite you to [sign up](#) to receive my Braddock Beacon newsletter and weekly Advisories. Send an email request to braddock@fairfaxcounty.gov and we'll add you to the list.

As always, thank you for all that you're doing, and I hope to see you on the trails around Lake Accotink!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "James W." with a stylized flourish at the end.

James Walkinshaw
Braddock District Supervisor

PET WASTE STATIONS

By Karole Nielson, FLAP Dog Waste Station Leader

There is no doubt that dogs lucky enough to live near Lake Accotink Park have greatly benefitted from the stay-at-home order in Northern Virginia. They have been taken on many, many enjoyable trail walks as evidenced by the number of bags stocked in the pet waste management stands. Use of the bags is up 600% from the same time last year!

Several pet waste stands along the Ravensworth Farm side of the lake have been relocated from their original postings at park entrances to sites on the trail itself. Each stand is now located near a park trash bin for easy disposal. FLAP has plans to expand the number of stands in the coming months to the other side of the trail.

Conveniently placed stands and waste bins along with signs educating dog owners about the waste problem will hopefully encourage continued use by all dog owners on the trail. If you see an empty stand or a stand with loose bags, please let FLAP know! If all dog lovers who use the park do their part, we can continue to enjoy a safe and beautiful lake for years to come.

Due to increased usage of the trails, additional dog waste stations are going to be added. The locations of the current and new dog waste stations can be seen on the map below.

Be smart, be safe, and look out for each other!



LAKE ACCOTINK LOOP TRAIL

3.9 mile multi-surface loop trail around Lake Accotink Park



FAIRFAX TRAIL BUDDY WEB APP:
For more trails info and the Fairfax Trail Buddy app visit us at:
<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/trails>
DATE: June 2017



LAKE ACCOTINK PARKING

Parking Lot 1: 7500 Accotink Park Road
Springfield, VA 22150
Parking Lot 2: 5660 Heming Avenue
Springfield, VA 22151

NOTE: FLAP funds the Dog Waste Stations – Please donate by mail to FLAP at P.O. Box 1203, Springfield VA 22151). Your tax deductible donations will be accepted through our PayPal donation link at flapaccotink.org.

ARTICLES

CANADA GEESE ANNUAL SUMMER MOLT



By Katherine E. Edwards, Ph.D., Certified Wildlife Biologist®

Fairfax County Wildlife Management Specialist

Fairfax County Police Department – Animal Services Division

You may have noticed more and more Canada geese beginning to congregate in areas around Fairfax County – in even larger flocks than usual! It is time for the annual summer molt, a four-to-six-week period when Canada geese cannot fly. All Canada geese go through a molting period to replace damaged, lost, or frayed feathers.

The molt occurs during the summer, in June and July, after the nesting season. During this time, Canada geese are grounded while they replace all their primary (flight) feathers. Many geese are also tending to broods or “creches” of goslings during this time. Young goslings are with adults during the molt and have not yet grown their full-flight feathers.

Canada geese typically select open areas near water within walking distance of food to congregate during the molt. Within Fairfax County, mowed lawns, parks, stormwater ponds, and golf courses often meet these habitat requirements. These areas offer protection by allowing geese to escape to water to reduce predation risk while having foraging opportunities nearby.

With geese “on foot” during this time, we often receive more calls about geese crossing busy roads as they move to and from foraging areas. We also receive complaints of large flocks of geese leaving numerous droppings and feathers in parks, playgrounds, and other public areas. Although it may be a nuisance to some, the geese are limited in their ability to leave an area when they cannot fly, and county wildlife professionals are not legally allowed to relocate wildlife in Virginia. Luckily, the molt is short-lived, and most geese should resume flight by the end of July.

If you have questions about whether an animal needs help or to locate a licensed wildlife rehabilitator, you may contact the Virginia Wildlife Conflict Helpline toll-free at 1-855-571-9003. Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

FAIRFAX COUNTY and FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY NOTES



Christopher Goldbecker,
Fairfax County Park Authority Managed Parks, Section Manager

With the longer days comes increased usage and activity at Lake Accotink Park. The Park Authority is hard at work improving the core activity area at Lake Accotink Park. Park users will notice several improvements this spring including a new emergency access road from the Hemming Avenue, parking lot to the marina, new siding and paint schemes on several of the core area's buildings, improved erosion controls at the beach and picnic areas, and, of course, the new Margaret Kinder Educational Pollinator Garden that was generously sponsored and installed by the Friends of Lake Accotink Park (FLAP)!

The new FLAP-built Pollinator Garden represents a sample of what the surrounding habitat should be at the park. Many of our parks have been affected by various invasive species of plants, which in many cases can wipe out the necessary food for our pollinators. This garden provides food, a place to gather, shelter, and most importantly, a place for pollinators to breed. This garden enhances the chance that some of our native pollinators will survive. Bees, butterflies, moths, flies, beetles, bats, and even hummingbirds will pay this garden a visit. These animals perform the crucial ecosystem service of pollination—making it possible for our food and flowers to grow. Stop by and visit the garden and watch nature's wonder at work!

For additional information visit: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/>

MANY LAKE ACCOTINK PROJECTS AND IMPROVEMENTS



SNAKES AT LAKE ACCOTINK PARK



By Tony Bulmer, Burke Lake Acting Manager

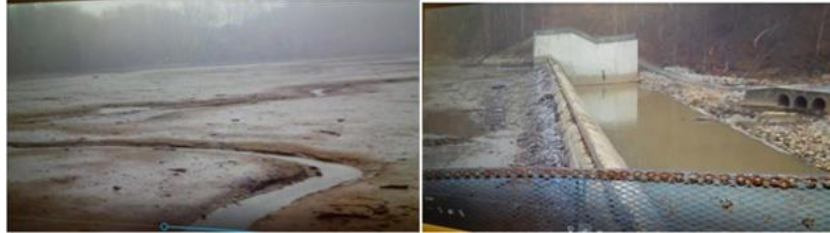
Fairfax County is home to 18 different species of snakes. We have only one venomous snake - the eastern copperhead (*Agkistrodon contortrix*). Snakes play a vital role in the ecosystem that we are a part of. The main benefit humans receive from snakes is protection from rodents; rodents can cause certain illnesses in humans. In fact, rats and mice are known to spread more than 35 diseases to humans. Diseases carried by rodents can be spread to humans indirectly, through fleas, ticks, or mites that have fed on an infected rodent. Snakes play a vital role in protecting humans from these diseases because they eat rodents. The best way to interact with snakes is to leave them alone. Most snake bites occur when people either go off trail in the park or when people pick snakes up. It is a good idea to stay on the trail; a snake may bite to protect itself if you reach for it, step on it or try and handle it. Many snakes rely on camouflage, but camouflage only works if you stay very still which make the snakes almost invisible. Leaving the trail increases the chance you will not see the snake, and this is when bites occur. Here are some reasons why you should not handle snakes. Many snakes rely on “mimicry” for their own survival. If a non-venomous juvenile eastern rat snake resembles a venomous copperhead hopefully the hawk won’t eat it. So, distinguishing non-venomous snake from a venomous snake can be a bit tricky. Here are some keys: A copperhead has an elliptical pupil and all other snakes in Fairfax County do not. The pattern on a copperhead is said to resemble a saddle on a horse or a Hershey kiss. Copperheads also have a hole between their eye and nose - which is a heat seeking pit that helps the snake hunt. Again, snakes are here to do an important job. They do not want to bite. The best way to interact with them is to leave them alone. You can always take pictures and send the photos in for identification. Happy Trails.

Copperhead being relocated by Karen Roos, Program Manager Lake Accotink Park Among her many certifications is a certified Snake handler



LAKE ACCOTINK PARK BUDGET – MASTER PLAN AND DREDGING UPDATES:

You can download the presentation and the 2020-2024 CIP <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> FCPA is working on contracting with a consultant for the dredging project but we hope to have that completed in the next several weeks. Updated information will be provided at this time.



Last LAP Dredging

FLYOVER UPDATE

The crossing at the Lake Accotink dam outfall floods suddenly and frequently, often stranding trail users and tempting them to wade through swiftly running water. Excessive damage due to major storm events has also required a total reconstruction of the trail twice in the last ten years with the trail being out of service for extended periods during reconstruction. The Lake Accotink Loop Trail system is one of the most heavily used trail facilities in the Fairfax County Park Authority. The proposed Flyover was originally planned for 2015 but is delayed by the Park Master Plan and forthcoming Lake Accotink dredging. The flyover project cannot begin until the plans for the dredging have been completed. An update for this project will be provided when a final schedule is determined by Planning and Development. The project will provide approximately 300 linear feet of asphalt trail improvements and 325 linear feet of elevated pedestrian crossing over the Lake Accotink dam outfall. The trail approaching the crossing from the Cardinal Forest community is also excessively steep. Community members and trail users requested that the Park Authority consider reducing the slope of the trail in this area as part of the project. Park Authority staff contracted with Burgess & Niple, Inc. to prepare a preliminary engineering study including technical analysis, hydraulic modeling, schematic design concept solutions, and projected cost estimates for the trail improvements. Two options were presented: Supporting the trail over multiple precast concrete arches at the dam outfall – or by elevating the trail over the dam outfall using concrete piers. While the precast concrete arches concept appeared to be less costly, an appreciable reduction in the steep slope in the trail approach can't be realized using precast concrete arches. The concrete arches option also has the potential for causing obstructions at the dam outfall, and the resulting hydraulic implications could pose additional permitting requirements. Staff therefore recommended going forward with the elevated walkway Concept which allows the slope on the trail connection to be reduced from 30% to 7%, dramatically improving the safety of the existing trail while allowing flood stage levels to safely pass below the crossing. Stream bank stabilization work and demolition of the existing culverts will be required to help regulate flood stage levels in the future.



CLEAN STREAMS PROGRAM



By Zach Huntington

Clean Streams Program Manager

Clean Fairfax.org

Since 1985, Clean Fairfax has had a vast and varied mission, but one of the most important bodies of work we do is to facilitate over 100 community clean-ups every year in Fairfax County. While Community Cleanups have a lot of great community benefit, our goal is to use clean-ups to develop data that can be used to address litter problems at the source, giving all of us the time to enjoy the outdoors rather than spending our weekends picking up trash.

We have ten specific sites throughout the county, chosen with our colleagues at Fairfax county Stormwater Management Division, using a formula that takes into consideration land use, location, ownership, location of stormwater outfall, and ease of access. We monitor, catalog, and clean up each site four times each throughout the year; this gives us the ability to develop “litter profiles.” These profiles are crucial because they tell us exactly where the trash is coming from and gives us the tools we need to work toward policy and legislative changes to curtail, and hopefully end the problem at that site.

The data we’ve developed during more than three years of our Clean Streams Program has been used by both Fairfax County officials and by our Fairfax County state Senators and Representatives to craft policies and legislation that we believe will reduce the volume of litter and single-use plastics in our communities, parks, and waterways.

Thank you to Friends of Lake Accotink Park for your continued dedication year after year to keeping your park clean. I’m looking forward to joining FLAP to talk trash and to figure out how we can fix the problem together!

Zach Huntington grew up in Bailey’s Crossroads. He is a former fishing guide on the Potomac River, and a Fairfax County native with a passion for clean water that led him to Clean Fairfax where he is the Clean Streams Program Manager. The mission of Clean Fairfax is to encourage environmental stewardship and urban sustainability in Fairfax County through education, programming, and community involvement. For more information about Clean Fairfax—www.cleanfairfax.org.

CARING FOR THE MARGARET KINDER EDUCATIONAL POLLINATOR GARDEN



By Kerri Blackman, Pollinator Garden Designer

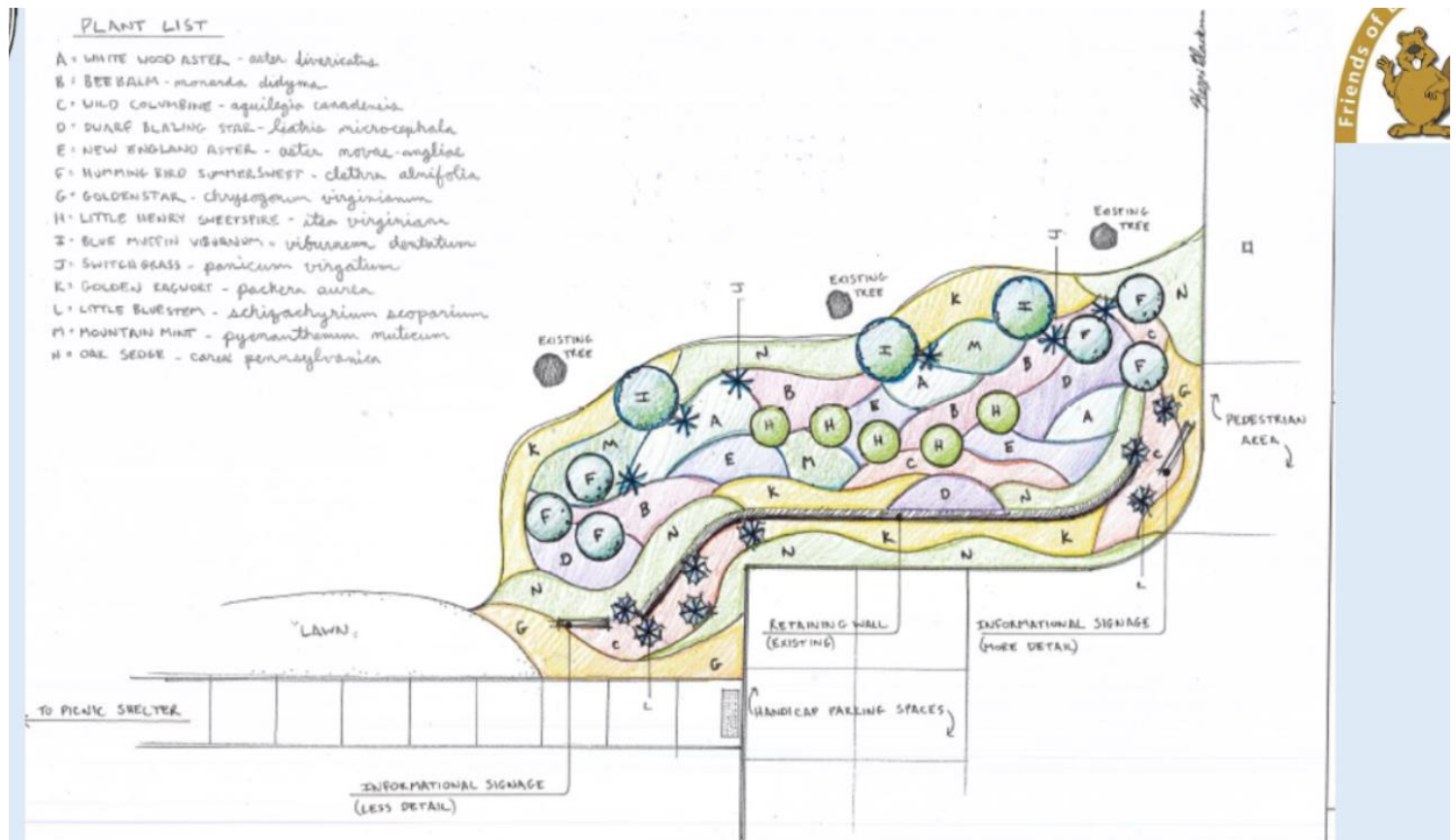
You may have noticed the new pollinator garden at Lake Accotink this year. This garden will provide habitat and food sources for pollinators and also serve as an aesthetic enhancement to the park. However, it will take teamwork to keep the garden beautiful and thriving. Seasonal volunteer workdays will be pertinent in getting the garden off to a good start, as well as more regular maintenance such as watering and weeding. Here are some general guidelines:

Late Winter/Early Spring: Fertilize shrubs. Cut back grasses to just above ground level. Cut back Wood Aster to 6" above ground level. Remove old/dead foliage from other perennials.

Summer: Clip spent flowers on Columbine, Ragwort, and other perennials. Weed out invasives such as Garlic Mustard, Japanese Stiltgrass, and Japanese Honeysuckle. Be careful of Poison Ivy!

Fall: Cut back Bee Balm and Columbine to ground. Leave Mountain Mint seed heads and stems standing through winter for wildlife habitat. Continue to weed out invasives.

Ongoing Maintenance: Deep water all plants weekly, or twice weekly during the driest summer days. Weed out invasives weekly to keep them from overcrowding the natives.



FLAP Article

Moving Forward with the Official Margaret Kinder Education and Pollinator Garden Dedication

FLAP representatives, Tony Vellucci and Jim Hickey (both are past FLAP Presidents) are working with FCPA Chris Goldbecker to submit the “official” request for project approval package. They are also coordinating with LAP Manager, Dan Grulke. The signage is currently being developed. Your 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.



Friends of Lake Accotink Park - FLAP board members Tony Vellucci, Jim Hickey, Meghan Walker and Dave Gibson, John Cook, former Braddock District Supervisor, and current Braddock District Supervisor, James Walkinshaw; host the interim dedication of the Margaret Kinder Education and Pollinator Garden at Lake Accotink Park. We are honoring Margaret Kinder for her decades of service to Lake Accotink Park, the Ravensworth Community, her dedication, and her many years of support to Lake Accotink Park, FLAP and the Fairfax Community. Formal dedication is tentatively scheduled for late August 2020



Thank you to the Ravensworth Farm Garden Club for donating the plant name plates that are currently being designed. Please visit the garden in the end of July to see the new name plates!

The walkway to the garden is near the handicapped parking. The path is handicapped accessible.

FCPA Margaret Kinder Pollinator Garden Update

The Fairfax County Park Authority officially approved the Margaret Kinder Educational Pollinator Garden naming! Dedication will take place on **August 29th**. See the information below about upcoming volunteer opportunities in the Garden.

Board Agenda Item
July 22, 2020

ACTION - 5

Approval – Lake Accotink Park's Pollinator Garden - Naming of Pollinator Garden
Honoring Margaret Kinder (Braddock District)

ISSUE:

This action seeks Fairfax County Park Authority Board approval for the naming of the pollinator garden at Lake Accotink Park as the Marjorie Kinder Education and Pollinator Garden.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Park Authority Executive Director recommends approval of the naming of Lake Accotink Park's pollinator garden in honor of Margaret Kinder.

TIMING:

Board action is requested on July 22, 2020. Staff will work with Friends of Lake Accotink Park to plan a public ceremony to celebrate the naming of this facility.

BACKGROUND:

A lifelong educator, naturalist, gardener, and community volunteer, Margaret Kinder is widely considered a park icon, known for her love of parks, especially Lake Accotink Park. Her support of Lake Accotink Park and neighboring communities has spanned more than three decades.

Margaret was born in Sumter, South Carolina, and grew up on a farm in nearby Horatio. She learned to love gardening, and raising guineas, goats, and chickens. She earned a BA in elementary education at Lander College in Greenwood, South Carolina, and later an MA in Education at the University of New Orleans. She taught grades 1-3 in several states including South Carolina, Washington, and Louisiana, before settling in Fairfax, Virginia, and served as a Guidance Counselor at Ravensworth Elementary School for twenty years, until she retired.

As a member of the Ravensworth Farms Civic Association Green Thumb Garden Club Margaret tended the pollinator garden at Lake Accotink Park for years. The semi-annual cleanup would find her in the traffic circle weeding and hoeing, nurturing milkweed plants. Recruiting others – both young and old - to assist, she instilled enthusiasm as she taught volunteers about native plants and invasive species.

Board Agenda Item
July 22, 2020

When a decision was made to relocate the pollinator garden from the traffic circle to a safer location, the garden's relocation and expansion found Margaret not only digging holes for the new plants, but teaching young and old alike how to create a sustainable garden.

Honoring Margaret Kinder for her decades of service to Lake Accotink Park, the Ravensworth Community, and Fairfax County is truly fitting. She has cultivated young minds and plants so that, together, they can grow and prosper. In light of her dedication to community and education, it is most appropriate to name the education and pollinator garden at Lake Accotink Park after this exemplary individual.

The proposed name is the Marjorie Kinder Education and Pollinator Garden.

FISCAL IMPACT:

None

ENCLOSED DOCUMENT:

None

STAFF:

Kirk W. Kincannon, Executive Director
Sara Baldwin, Deputy Director/COO
Aimee L. Vosper, Deputy Director/CBD
Cindy Walsh, Director, Park Services Division
Judy Pedersen, Public Information Officer
Brian Laws, Manager, Park Services Operations Branch
Chris Goldbecker, Manager, Park Services Managed Parks Section



Help Lake Accotink VOLUNTEER



facebook.com/friendsoflakeaccotinkpark/
twitter.com/accotinkfriends
www.flapaccotink.org

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THE GARDEN

We need volunteers to help with weeding and placing name plates for our new plants in the Margaret Kinder Educational Pollinator Garden at Lake Accotink Park! See details below!

WHERE: Margaret Kinder Educational Pollinator Garden – Lake Accotink Park (located next to the FLAP shed)

DATE: Saturday, August 8

TIME: 9:00am



New Plants in the Margaret Kinder Educational Pollinator Garden

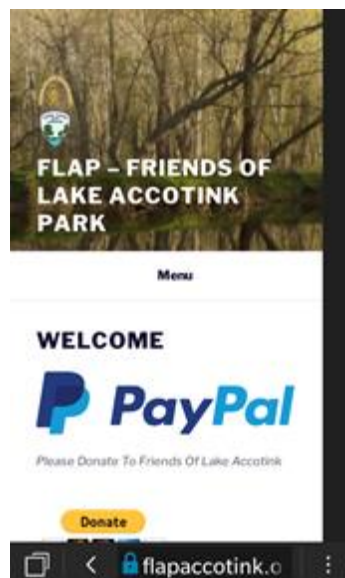
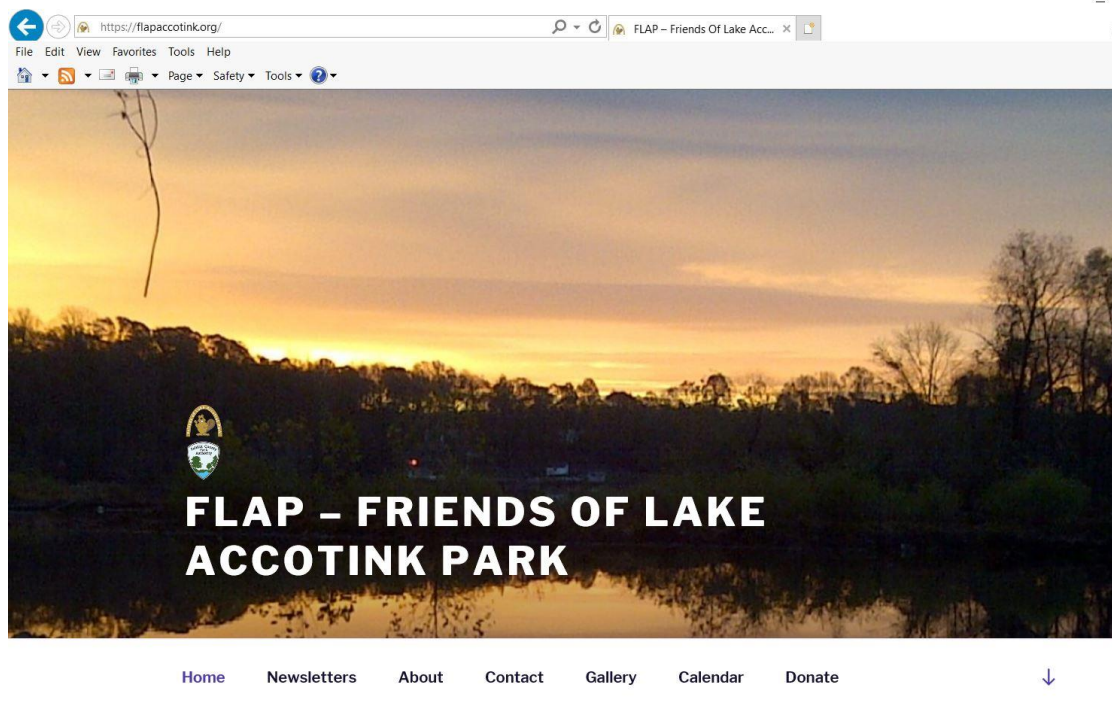
Thank you to donors and dedicated volunteers, who through hard work and dedication helped to complete the Margaret Kinder Educational Pollinator Garden-MKEPG by planting an additional 250 plants. The MKEPG now contains over 700 plants – 14 varieties of pollinator plants. Great job everyone! The formal large FCPA sign (naming the plants) will be in place soon.



Check out FLAP's New Website – Thanks for our Webmaster, Mike Burns



We would like to thank our webmaster, Mike Burns, for his patience, expertise, and steadfastness working with us to develop our new Friends of Lake Accotink website – flapaccotink.org We are gathering suggestions and making improvements. Visit our website, which includes our social media feeds, events, news, and much more, and let us know what you think. We would also like to thank Friends Of Accotink Creek for hosting the FLAP link for many years. contact@flapaccotink.org



Projects, Activities, Events, and More

The Friends of Lake Accotink Board would like to again 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 manages many properties. Under his leadership we have continued our monthly project, events, and program activities and meetings. We also welcome our dedicated Lake Accotink Park Manager, Dan Grulke.

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/ Additional Dog Waste Stations/Bat Houses/ Replacement of Trail Signage/ 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

Because we are an all-volunteer Board and Staff, we must ensure our accomplishments (current and future) as well as our anticipated, planned activities, projects, and events are well documented. To help us develop and, if necessary, defend current efforts, we have developed a tracking spread-sheet that contains descriptions, points of contact, budgets, funding activities, documentation of all LAP - FLAP actions, activities, projects, and programs. This sheet is a valued tool to enter and highlight LAP-FLAP monthly updates.

[illegible]

CURRENT FUNDRAISING PROJECTS:

1. The Margaret Kinder Educational Pollinator Garden- MKEPG . Over 700 plants and 14 varieties will serve to educate the community on the importance of "pollinators" not only to Lake Accotink Park but to our environment as a whole. Teaching can and does happen at all ages - teaching old and young alike how to establish their own garden.
2. Care and maintenance of the MKEPG Garden.
3. Additional Dog Waste stations - Removing fecal matter from the trails of Lake Accotink Park, impacts the waterways, environment in a good way. Additional Dog Waste Stations/Bags
4. FLAP Shed upkeep/Projects/Activities/Outreach/Operations (bags, gloves, gardening tools, information, safety vests, educational flyers)

The Richard David Stutzke Foundation



Mary Keeser, FLAP President and Jim Hickey, FLAP Secretary, Thank Sharon Stutzke (center), President of the Richard David Stutzke Foundation – For the Foundations continued support

On behalf of the Friends of Lake Accotink Park – FLAP, we would like to extend our most sincere thanks to The Richard David Stutzke Foundation-RDSF; for their continued support. It is only through their most generous donations that FLAP was able to complete the planning, execution and planting of over 700 pollinator plants for the Margaret Kinder Educational Pollinator Garden. Sharon Stutzke, President of the RDSF shared a love of caring for our environment through education and volunteerism with her husband Richard. Sharon's parents were among the first residents of Ravesworth Farm, and were often seen with their children (Sharon, Jim, Mike) enjoying Lake Accotink Park.

After years of discussion, planning was ramped up last March and culminated with FLAP Volunteers and professional landscapers clearing the new area and planting over 14 varieties of the now 700 pollinator plants. A large Sugar Maple tree was planted in the traffic circle surrounded by mulch and a narrow ring of sod.

Signage identifying the 14 varieties of pollinator plants along with what they attract is currently being designed to educate the public concerning the benefits and impacts of such a garden to our food supply and overall environment.

Encouraging all to plant, at any scale, a pollinator garden guaranteed to positively impact our environment.

Our deepest gratitude and thanks to Sharon and the RDSF.



Back to the Basics

By Yasmine L. Marrero, Edison High School Student

In the most chaotic of times, when nothing seems to be constant, it can be hard to balance your life between work, responsibilities, and the kids. The outdoors is one of our best resources to recharge, and a little sunshine can bring a lot of light into your life. However simple it may be, taking a walk can do wonders for the mental and physical health of your family.

The peaceful sounds and the stillness of nature help to restore balance to your life while the fresh air and space to run around are liberating for the kids. While they're exploring, you can relax, breathe in the fresh air, and enjoy the simplicity of nature while getting some much-needed vitamin D. The last few months have been challenging, but visiting Lake Accotink has allowed me to regain balance and order in my life and reconnect with nature. Sometimes, a trip to Lake Accotink is all you need to get back on track.



We are looking for more Young FLAPers! Consider writing a short story or submitting a photo for the newsletter. To get involved, contact Yasmine at youngflappers@flapaccotink.org



By Landon VanBrunt

Lake Accotink is fun,
We like to adventure there.
We see turtles and eagles,
And follow trails everywhere.
Sunset is beautiful,
When day is at it's end.
You can even social distance
There with a friend.

- Landon VanBrunt



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 committees listed below (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 are perfect for the entire family – we provide service hours.

POSITION	NAME	e-Mail
Membership	Elissa Myers	membership@flapaccotink.org
Community Outreach and Communications	Nicole Wargel	communications@flapaccotink.org
Stewardship	OPEN	stewardship@flapaccotink.org
Recreation	OPEN	recreation@flapaccotink.org
Fundraising	OPEN	fundraising @flapaccotink.org
Special Projects	OPEN	specialprojects @flapaccotink.org
Young FLAPers	Yasmine L. Marrero	youngflapers@flapaccotink.org

Accepting nominations now for FLAP Board Positions – Send contact information along with desired position to : contact@flapaccotink.org

NEW NEWSLETTER CONTACTS!



Nicole Wargel, Communications Director communications@flapaccotink.org

I have lived in Fairfax County for the past 17 years. I recently finished undergrad at James Madison University and went on to do 2 years as an AmeriCorps Member for City Year DC. I will be volunteering with FLAP's communications for the summer and will be starting Law School at Catholic University in August!



Colleen Blessing, Editor colleenblessing@gmail.com

I have lived in the Braddock District for 30 years. I retired from the government in 2018 after 45 years of service. For most of my career I worked as an economist/writer/editor at the U.S. Energy Information Administration. Currently I am a volunteer editor for James Walkinshaw's Braddock Beacon.

If you have any content you would like added to the FLAP newsletter, social media, or website, feel free to reach out to us at our emails above!

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!



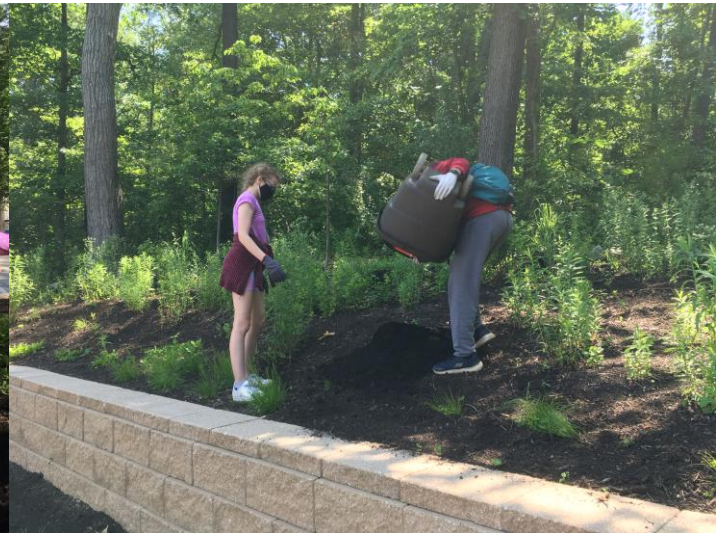
Merrifield
GARDEN CENTER

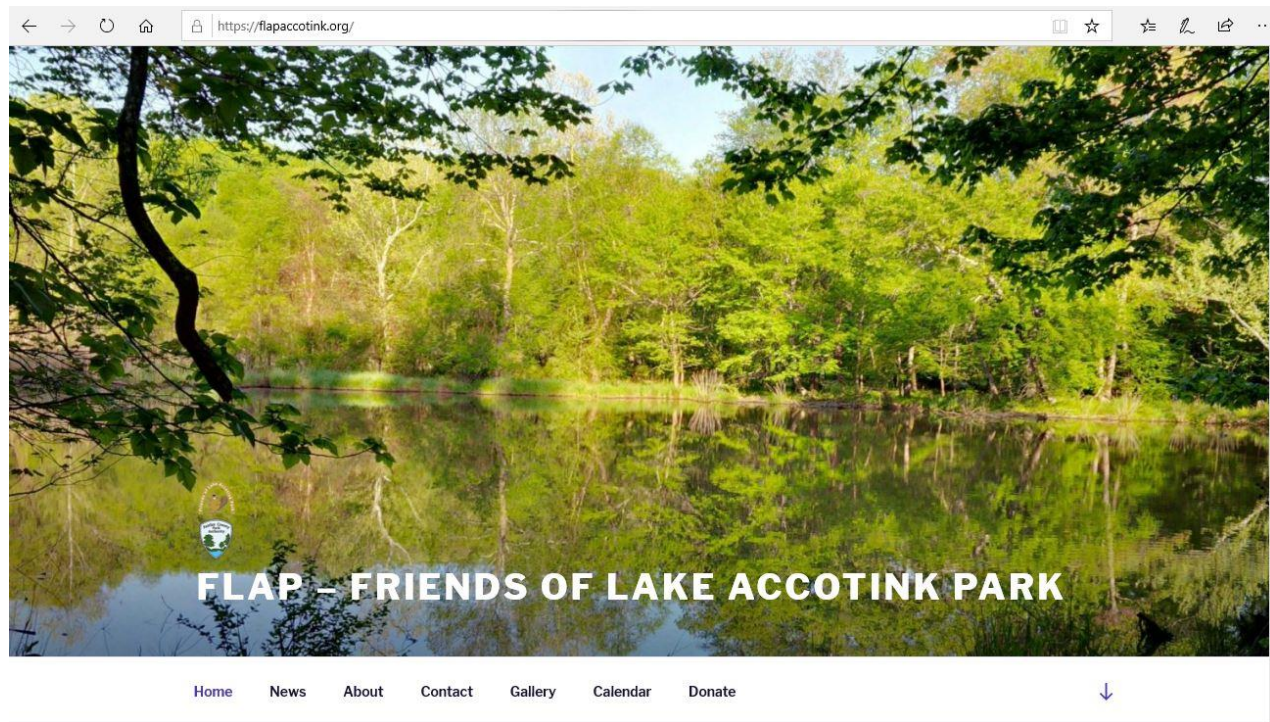
Anita's

Klroy's
ONLY IN AMERICA

Monthly Clean-up June 14, 2020







www.facebook.com/friendsoflakeaccotinkpark/

www.twitter.com/accotinkfriends

www.flapaccotink.org

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

Contact@flapaccotink.org

Donations:

Online at www.flapaccotink.org

Or mail to:

FLAP or Friends of Lake Accotink Park

P.O. Box 1203, Springfield, VA 22151

Newsletter Contacts:

Nicole Wargel, Director of communication – communications@flapaccotink.org

Colleen Blessing, Editor – colleenblessing@gmail.com