



**Friends of Long Branch Stream Valley
Kick Off Meeting
Monday July 7th, 2014, at 7:00 PM
Braddock Hall (Kings Park Library)**

Just a quick note to introduce myself and let you know what I am hoping to achieve at the kick off meeting of the Friends of Long Branch Stream Valley, now scheduled for Monday July 7th at 7:00 PM at Braddock Hall (Kings Park Library).

My name is Tony Vellucci and I am the Braddock District Representative to the Park Authority Board, nominated by Supervisor John Cook and appointed by the Board of Supervisors to this position. I live in Kings Park West and was the civic association president there for five years before moving to this position.

I am looking to start a Friends Group for the Long Branch Stream Valley and given your proximity to the stream valley, believe that your civic / community / homeowner association should be a part of that. To that end, I asked for Supervisor Cook's assistance to bring together the various stakeholder communities to formally kick off what I hope will be a very vibrant Friends Group. The Park Authority makes good use of Friends Groups, however not so much in the Braddock District; I am looking to change that to foster greater interaction between the Braddock District community and the Park Authority, and also between various associations within the Braddock District, working in conjunction with the Braddock District Council.

At a recent bridge dedication ceremony in Canterbury Woods I challenged the Stonehaven / Canterbury Woods community to make a difference in the stream valley citing efforts by Old Forge/Surrey Square. The message resonated very well with many residents attending the dedication ceremony. That is the genesis of this effort.

I see the primary focus of the LBSV friends group as invasive management control, trash control, and trail safety/maintenance. We can discuss additional issues of interest at the kick off meeting and subsequent meetings.

Just so that you know, these are the key organizations:

- Braddock District Council -
- Rutherford -
- Bradfield – Long Branch -
- Red Fox Forest –
- Canterbury Woods -
- Stonehaven –

If anyone knows of any other civic / community / homeowner associations that you believe we ought to include, please let Supervisor Cook's office / me know so that we get an invite out to them also.

There are other organizations / individuals that I will ask to attend to answer any questions any of you might have. In the Braddock District, we are very fortunate to have some very strong Invasive Management efforts and Friends Group leaders.

One of my goals is to have the Friends group commit to monitoring the stream valley from Olley Lane down to Wakefield Chapel. Just to give you an idea on scope, the Friends of Accotink Creek monitor 23 miles of stream valley ... from Vienna to Pohick Bay. A key concern of Long Branch Stream Valley is its impact on Lake Accotink Park given the park / lake is under incredible stress on a number of fronts.

A potential agenda for our meeting is as follows -

- LBSV Friends Group Definition / Arrangement / Coordination with FCPA
- Other Friends Group in the Braddock District
- LBSV Friends Group Organization & Structure
- FCPA Invasive Management Program
- Recent FCPA activities / efforts to assist in invasive management removal
- LBSV Trail Safety
- LBSV Trail Maintenance
- LBSV Coordination with other Friends Groups in Braddock District

Thanks to a grant from REI, I have invasive species playing cards that detail the 52 bad guys in Fairfax County from an invasive species perspective and will make them available to you to gin up interest in your community. Each box has twelve decks, and I will give each community at least one box ... and maybe two if I have enough to also support Braddock Nights efforts.

Lastly - I want to make you aware of an effort by Whole Foods Springfield to donate 5% of their net revenue to the Friends of Accotink Creek and the Friends of Lake Accotink Park on Wednesday June 11th. I've attached a press release flyer for your info. I would greatly appreciate - as would FACC and FLAP - your encouragement of patronage of Whole Foods Springfield on Wednesday June 11th to your respective associations, to maximize the potential 5% donation to Lake Accotink Park.

If you want more information before the 7th.... please feel free to contact me at your convenience. Mobile 703 598 7029

Best Regards -

Tony Vellucci

Braddock District Representative
Fairfax County Park Authority Board
