



## Comments Regarding the George Snyder Trail

To: Mayor, City Council,  
Cc: Parks & Recreation

September 1, 2020

*Primum non nocere "First, do no harm."*

At the August 3<sup>rd</sup> online public meeting, it was disconcerting that the design contractor's presentation:

- Consistently pronounced the name of the creek as "Accoteek".
- Demonstrated no understanding that much of the route is along the Mosby Woods tributary.
- Referred to the North Fork of Accotink Creek at Eaton Place as a "multi cell box culvert", apparently unaware of its character as a stream.

These certainly may be mere quibbles, but this wooded corridor owes its existence to Accotink Creek. We owe the creek enough respect to understand its character.

Other concerns arising from the August 3<sup>rd</sup> public meeting:

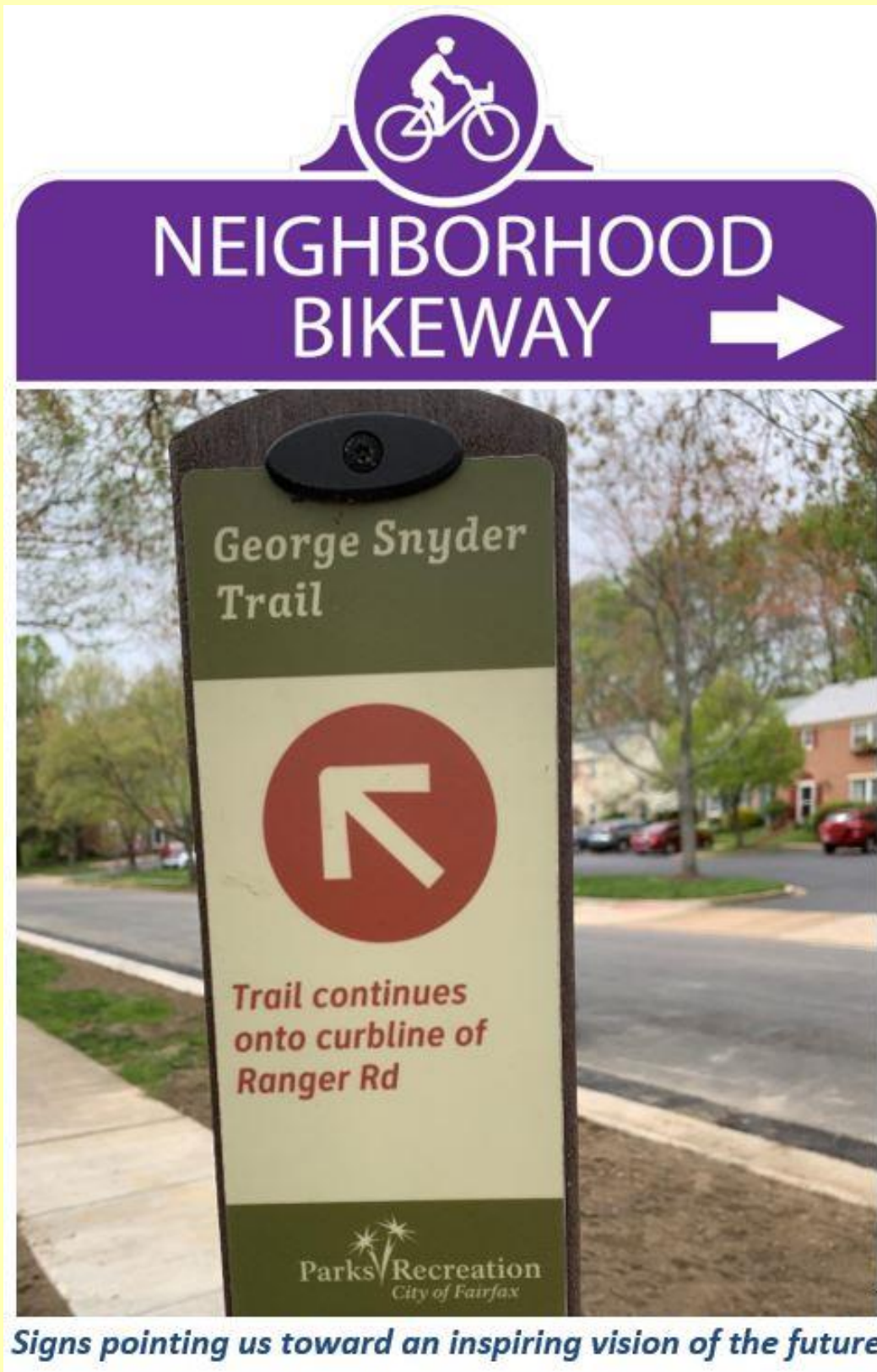
- Will the meeting presentation slideshow be available online?
- Apparently this was the first public meeting of any kind addressing the trail plans.
- Apparently alternate routes have not been considered, inside or outside the wooded corridor.
- The need for numerous retaining walls is an indication that the terrain is unsuitable and is a contributing cause of the high cost.
- Discussions of plant selection were without any reference to restoration, leading to the question of whether wooded areas will be converted to landscaping.
- The proposed stormwater control "grass channel" seems dubious in terms of both function and preservation, given that the location is in floodplain and currently forested.
- How can this project be effectively coordinated with the proposed Stafford Drive flood control/stream restoration when the Stafford project is so far only a concept while trail construction is projected in 18 months?

No project occurs in isolation free to discount the cumulative effects of our collective actions. Even now, the I-66 Project is devastating the headwaters of the North Fork of Accotink Creek by stripping away forested buffer and forcing the stream into lightless tunnels where it was formerly free flowing and filled with fish. Private development is taking away more buffer and open water. Our life-giving waters must not be further taken for granted. Our responsibility is to protect and preserve these waters, not ask them to bear burden after burden after burden.

We again appeal for considering a route along Ranger Road as existing infrastructure that would save both Nature and taxpayer dollars. The challenges involved in making this quiet street people friendly seem insignificant compared to the engineering challenges of the proposed route.

The "[Neighborhood Bikeway](#)" plan of Portland, Oregon asks us to "*Imagine a network of safe and enjoyable streets to ride your bicycle on that connects you to other neighborhoods and destinations including schools, parks, transit stops, and businesses.*" Columbus, Ohio has a [similar vision](#), as do other communities, as does the City itself, of which the [Mason To Metro Bicycle Route](#) is but one example. Let us make the George Snyder Trail the next example of that vision for the City and forego the urge to diminish Nature in order to enjoy Nature.

Sincerely,



*Signs pointing us toward an inspiring vision of the future*

## Friends of Accotink Creek

><(((°>`·,·,·~`·,·><(((°> "Find just one other person who cares." ><(((°>`·,·,·~`·,·><(((°>`·,·,·~`·,· ><(((°>