



Operation Stream Shield

March 19, 2020

Sent to Chairman of the Board of Supervisors and the seven Accotink Creek watershed supervisors:

The Friends of Accotink Creek have had several occasions to work with the County's new [Operation Stream Shield](#) providing work opportunities in our parks for residents of shelters. We commend Fairfax County for having made the transition from a pilot to a permanent program.

We wish to heartily echo the sentiments below of Mike Planert, one of the able team coordinators for The Lamb Center, which partners with the County. Although written before funding was finalized, Mike expresses the value of Operation Stream Shield to the parks and to the shelter residents who are able to be employed.

We encourage Fairfax County to further expand the types of work available to participants and the locations. The result can only be of mutual benefit all around.

Sincerely,

Friends of Accotink Creek : : www.accotink.org : :

><(((e>`~..><(((e> "Find just one other person who cares." ><(((e>`~..><(((e>`~..><(((e>

Date: February 7, 2020 at 13:45:36 EST
Subject: Litter/trash pick-up—NEW CONTRACT

?I live in Braddock District and have been volunteering at The Lamb Center (thelambcenter.org) working with the area's homeless for over a year. We started, with Fairfax City, a jobs program for the homeless looking to move up to a full-time job—and many have! Each member makes \$10/hour working in the City Parks and waterways.

Last October, we started a similar program with Fairfax County, along with two other organizations. Since it was a pilot program, we knew there was a limit to the project, and hoped to move to a more permanent program. Unfortunately, two days before Christmas, we got the word the pilot was over. We've been told it is going to take 6-9 months to complete the paperwork to establish a new program. (Eisenhower moved his troops from England, took the Normandy Beaches, liberated Paris in less than 30 days—BTW.)

It is a GREAT program, but frustrated by the paperwork taking so long. We have had absolutely wonderful help from the people at Storm Water (Emily Burton and Heather Ambrose), the "humma humma" is coming from above them.

The streams need cleaning; Fairfax County Parkway looks like a dump; and many other areas needing serious attention. We can help the County—and equally important—help a group of our less fortunate citizens get back on their feet.

As I said earlier, I am one of many volunteers at the Lamb Center, so these are my opinions. Sure hope we can get "back in the water" and doing good things! Be great if the Supervisor joins us in the field—and can spend some time with a bunch of wonder people.

Thank You!
Mike Planert

Friends of Accotink Creek

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