



Pickett Road Connector Trail Comments

To: Mayor & City Council, City of Fairfax

July 11, 2021

Once again, the Friends of Accotink Creek appeal for the drawing of a line under paved trail building in our limited remaining natural heritage areas. We ask the City to forego the proposed Pickett Road Connector Trail.

The recently announced City of Fairfax Bicycle Plan, Bike Fairfax City, indicates an on-street route in the future of Pickett Road parallel to and just yards away from the proposed Connector route. The opportunity is upon us to move into the future now by choosing the route of a shared use path along this one-block stretch of Pickett Road, already in service as part of the Cross County Trail.

Let's spare the forest and spare the floodplain from further asphalt.

Let's spare the riders from regularly flooded trails.

Let's spare the City budget from the burden of maintenance of this redundant route.

The Pickett Road Connector Trail pits two worthy goals – enhanced non-motorized transportation and habitat preservation - against each other. Improved opportunities for bicycle and pedestrian travel are welcome, but the proposed route means this opportunity would come at the expense of forests and streams. We have plenty of streets that need to be made people-friendly first!

The proposed route of the Pickett Road Connector Trail runs entirely in floodplain and wetlands along Hatmark Branch, a tributary of Accotink Creek. Streets were built where transportation is needed. Stream valleys were not. Ergo paving stream valleys is not a solution to transportation needs. People-friendly "Neighborways" are the vision we should pursue, as laid out in [Bike Fairfax City](#).

The [George Snyder Trail](#) and all such routings of trails through our dwindling and irreplaceable natural heritage areas should also yield to "Neighborways".

"Do no harm" is the principle we hope to see applied whenever we are faced with the temptation to take "just one more bite", to lay just one more burden on our irreplaceable natural heritage.

Sincerely,

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

Save our Streams! Save our Trees! Save our Wildlife!



LET'S AVOID THIS PICTURE!

Friends of Accotink Creek

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