

**Regarding the State of the Lake Accotink Dredge
Comments of the Friends of Accotink Creek - June 15, 2024**



The May 22, 2024, quarterly meeting of the Friends of Lake Accotink Park included a presentation by Stormwater Planning Division on the state of the dredge project.

The presentation was a disappointment, outlining a plodding “business as usual” approach. It offered no prospect of action, but only years of further studies of what has already been studied exhaustively. The public mood at the meeting (including several Task Force members present) was one of understandable exasperation with the continued inaction. One might have wondered if we had entered a time machine and traveled back to 2016, the very beginning of the dredge saga.

Even more dismaying was the impression that all the valuable results of the Task Force were essentially being set aside in favor of this “back to square one” approach.

The Friends of Accotink Creek urge that the Task Force be reconvened, that its members be kept closely involved, and serve to guide the direction of the project toward the most positive outcomes possible.

Although its report is concluded, the Task Force remains an important resource, not least for the sense of urgency it will lend to finding a way out of our dredge dilemma.

Regarding specific action that may be taken in the short term, the Friends of Accotink Creek have previously put forward the idea of annual, or even continuous dredging:

- This would reduce the scale of dewatering and the truck traffic pressure on neighbors. Lake Barcroft offers a nearby example of annual maintenance dredging, lakeside dewatering, and trucking (of an admittedly smaller quantity) without complaints from the posh neighbors.
- If only regulatory permits were possible, the smaller amounts of sediment from slow dredging could simply be piped downstream, mimicking what would happen anyway if the lake were allowed to fill or if the dam were removed.
 - If it were to become permissible, such downstream piping would spare expense, spare neighbors, and spare the forest of Wakefield Park. Piping the sediment as far as the second downstream bridge on the Cross County Trail would also spare the freshwater mussel beds, found nowhere else on Accotink Creek.

Our extended comments of [March 22, 2023](#) remain relevant.

In summary:

- **Let’s get the Task Force back onboard.**
- **Let’s get moving, even with small steps.**

Friends of Accotink Creek

: www.accotink.org :

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