



**REGARDING THE PICKETT ROAD CONNECTOR TRAIL –
Comments of Friends of Accotink Creek**

Testimony before City Council , March 12, 2024

I speak tonight representing the Friends of Accotink Creek regarding the Pickett Road Connector Trail.

Quote:

“The Pickett Road Underpass Trail is a joint effort between NOVA Parks and the City of Fairfax to provide a safe trail connecting the City’s Willcoxon Trail to the Gerry Connolly Cross County Trail and to the Fairfax Connector Trail”

So says the sign placed alongside this existing safe trail connection. What then, are we to think of the proposed Pickett Road Connector Trail that would:

- Duplicate the existing safe route,
- Run parallel to the existing safe route, and
- Be a literal stone’s throw from the existing safe route,
- All while sacrificing woodlands and wetlands within a designated streamside Resource Protection Area?

Are we to think the proposed Pickett Road Connector Trail is:

- Unnecessary,
- Unjustified,
- A redundant bit of infrastructure that taxpayers will have to maintain in perpetuity,
- A path that will lead trail users away from Fairfax City and the adjacent Small Area Activity Center, and
- A step backwards from City goals for tree canopy, stormwater control, and climate change avoidance?

The Friends of Accotink Creek certainly feel compelled to see the Pickett Road Connector Trail in just such an unfortunate light.

We urge you to guide the Pickett Road Connector Trail onto the nearby existing safe route on existing pavement, and to do likewise with all trees-to-asphalt conversions. Let’s make our streets safe for people before we make our forests safe for pavement.

Friends of Accotink Creek

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