GreenACES

Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability

GREENBELT ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL
March 11, 2016
Recommendation 2016-01

SUBJECT: Partnering with Corvias and Prince George's County to dredge the lake's forebays

BACKGROUND: The project's objective is to improve the water quality of the lake and streams, cleaning the forebays so that they filter properly. The job needs to be done, and the County/Corvias will finance the project, saving money for Greenbelt taxpayers with the cost spread across the entire County.

On Wednesday, February 17, 2016, members of Green ACES/Green Team/Friends joined the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB) meeting with Corvias to learn about the project to dredge the two lake forebays. This meeting provided information on the partnership between Corvias and the County as well as particulars of the dredging project; this information was shared via e-mail with all Green ACES members.

It was reported that the lake is in good shape and not in need of dredging. The depth is about 20 feet in the deep parts, and much lower in shallow parts. Diversity is good; variety of plants is good; and the lake has a healthy ecosystem. The forebays were constructed in 1988, dredged in 1999, and now require maintenance. This will help clean runoff from 168 acres draining into the lake.

On Tuesday, February 23, 2016, Green ACES/Green Team met and reviewed the project and the PRAB meeting participants' comments, voiced concerns, and voted on whether to recommend to City Council to participate in this project.

Green ACES recommendation: Green ACES voted unanimously to recommend that City Council participate in this partnership with Corvias and the County as long as the MDE permit contain provisions for ensuring that the following concerns be properly addressed:

- That care be taken to protect wildlife. Green ACES would like assurances that the wildlife (mostly reptiles) and eggs (mostly amphibian) present in the material to be dredged be considered by dredging after the brumation period for the turtles; and after the tadpoles have hatched.
- That the lake path be kept open for pedestrian use at all times.
- That runoff be adequately handled during dredging.
- That vegetation removed during this operation be replaced, with the tree canopy the same or better following the dredging, and that invasive species be removed. It was pointed out that poison ivy takes off in areas recently disturbed by human beings and that since poison ivy is present at the planned disturbance sites, this potential problem should be adequately addressed.
- There was also a question about where the sediment from the dredging would be dried and disposed of, and that a potential problem with odors should be minimized.