



April 12, 2021

Emily Nelson White
Virginia Outdoors Foundation

Ms. White,

Friends of the Rappahannock (FOR) is pleased to offer our full support for Downtown Greens' application for funding through VOF's Preservation Trust Fund. This opportunity would be a major leap forward toward Downtown Greens and FOR's shared goal of improving awareness and protection of environmental resources.

As the premier river conservation organization in the City of Fredericksburg for over 35 years, FOR is keenly aware of the intimate link between open space preservation and water quality. In fact our 2018 river report card awarded the Middle Rappahannock a D+ grade for Land Use, due in part to a scarcity of open space conservation in the Fredericksburg area. Preserving this property would raise that grade and provide a rare opportunity for land conservation in a mostly built-out city.

Offering public educational access to this open space will help multiply FOR's outreach and education efforts as well. The presence of wetlands, sustainable farmland, and additional outdoor education opportunities create a natural "living classroom" which can serve as a space for partnership among local schools and universities.

Thank you for the opportunity to support Downtown Greens as they embark on this valuable endeavor.

Sincerely,

Adam Lynch
River Steward - Fredericksburg

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