

# Proposal

We, members of the Green Team and students of Haycock Elementary School, proudly present our proposal for cleaning the water of [Little Hunting Creek].

In 2012, people found 111 shopping carts stuck in the creek's muddy bottom where it runs below Janna Lee Avenue and where both sides are lined with apartments. A mannequin leg, plastic alligator head and a gun were unearthed over the years, along with 266 tires and an enormous amount of recyclable plastic items. Little Hunting Creek, which flows through Fairfax County before reaching the Potomac River, has become a "trash conveyor belt" as one state senator put it. News articles have even referred to the creek as the county's trashiest stream.

We believe we have a solution. Without interfering with the cleanup inside the stream, we can prevent more trash from reaching the Potomac. The mouth of the tributary gives a good option. There is no large buildup of trash, making the water fair for building. A large collecting device would idly pick up trash at the mouth of Little Hunting Creek. A two-step plan involving both this device and the opening of any large blockages in the stream.

The first phase of our solution is the building of the trash collector. This will need 5 stainless steel rods, all of which need to reach the bottom of the mouth. Wire mesh will also be needed. The rods will be implanted into the ground. We can wrap wire mesh around the tops and bottoms of the poles. Putting the mesh in these locations will allow passing wildlife to swim through, while collecting sinking and floating trash. For this, approximately 640 feet of mesh is needed. The mesh should total to just under 320\$, and the cost of the poles is unknown without proper data as to the depth of the mouth of Little Hunting. This collector will allow trash to slip into dug out pockets, where the trash will pile up.

A large trash pile in the ground poses many problems. The first one is wildlife, such as raccoons, squirrels, and insects. Some simple metal lids would be a great fix. Humans can easily lift them, but not small mammals. The next problem is trash seeping into the ground. If possible, we could make large metal bins, recycling shipping containers or something of the sort. If not, the holes could be paved with concrete. Lastly, we must consider removal of the trash. The Peace Services Junk Removal in Alexandria can take care of all collected trash.

Phase two is much less demanding. We can send a small crew of people to remove major blockages by removing logs and dispersing large piles. This will allow more water to flow, carrying the garbage with it and into the trap.

Our planet has been blessed with so much wildlife. However, humanity has had a negative effect on much of the water. But we can also clean up our mess with technology and careful planning. Please consider our proposal.