

September 17, 2019

Metro Planning Commission Members,

We would like to express our appreciation to Councilman Benson and Metro Government for supporting the development of the South Floyds Fork Vision (SFFV) area plan. This plan is urgently needed to guide the future of the most rapidly developing portion of Jefferson County, as Metro Planning Commission has approved development of more than 1,300 new lots in the South Floyds Fork area since this study began two years ago.

The plan's Vision Statement says that the Floyds Fork watershed is a natural treasure and its preservation is paramount. The creek is the centerpiece of the entire study area and the renowned Parklands. We support the current proposal, which provides a good foundation for guiding future development; however, a few modifications still are needed to help fulfill the Vision. We ask that you seriously consider adjusting the following Recommendations, as noted by strikethrough and italics:

- 4.B.** ~~Wherever possible~~ Roadways should be buffered from tree clearing. Rather than prohibit logging practices entirely in the area, this recommendation would maintain a buffer of trees and vegetation between public roadways and logging operations. This would reduce the visual impact of tree clearing on roadways and other scenic areas.
- 5.A.** ~~Consider~~ Establishing "common sense" ~~buffer standards between when a 50-foot natural/vegetative buffer in new development is proposed adjacent to permanently protected land. active agricultural uses.~~ Property owners should work together to develop adequate buffers in these cases.
- 21.A.** ~~Maintaining and protecting~~ a minimum of 50% tree canopy within the planning area. ~~protects the numerous benefits that trees provide.~~
- 27.A.** ~~Encourage~~ *Require* dark-sky-compliant lighting on all new public and private development throughout the area.

The South Floyds Fork Vision Plan will have a significant impact on the study area. This plan will serve as the guiding document for the area's growth, development and investment over the next 20 years. It is essential that the plan allows sustainable growth that protects Floyds Fork and the surrounding area for future generations.

As stated in the SFFV Background, the study area is "one of the more significant natural and rural parts of the county remaining." To help protect these features, we as a majority of the Advisory Group respectfully request that you include our revisions to the proposed plan.

Respectfully,

SFF Vision Advisory Group Members:

Senator Julie Adams

Frances Aprile

Mike Farmer

Anita Johnson

Teena Halbig

Harrell Hurst

David Kaelin

Kurt Mason

Sheila Mead