

# Lake Caledon

*"A gathering place that inspires and fulfills your curiosity and spirit of Life"*

Efforts made today, and tomorrow, will protect Lake Caledon from becoming a development of 97 single-family homes. This farmland that dates back seven generations in King George County is nature at its best. Peppermill Creek runs through almost a mile of the property with its nesting pair of American Bald Eagles keeping an eye on the 47-acre lake. Along the creek, you will witness, beaver, otter, turtles, snakes, ducks, geese, swans, blue heron, green heron, white egrets and the list goes on.

King George County and the State of Virginia has an amazing opportunity to invest in joining this land to the existing Caledon State Park without disturbing the counties infrastructure. Caledon State Park is known for its "Old Growth Forest" and being one of the east coast largest summer roosting grounds for our National Bird, the American Bald Eagle. In 1974 Caledon was gifted to the Commonwealth of Virginia to become part of the state park system. Shortly after, at the request of concerned citizens, a task force was established to research the best use of the park due to the large summering population of endangered American Bald Eagles found there. In 1984 task force recommendations were signed by the Governor and Caledon was re-named a Natural Area and a National Landmark. In 2012, several years after eagles were taken off the endangered species list, Caledon was changed back to a state park. However, it is still managed with a philosophy of protecting sensitive habitats and having minimal human impact of the still vital land. The only way Caledon State Park can diversify is to increase its boundaries. Everything the park **cannot** do today, we can change tomorrow by annexing the land across the street, Lake Caledon, to Caledon State Park. Lake Caledon and its creek can offer fishing, kayaking and aquatic education. The hills and trails can offer cabins, biking, hiking and horseback riding. The fields can offer sporting events, outdoor concerts, and a conference center. The trails for hiking, biking and horseback riding can be used immediately.

The financial impact to the county and state is significant. We can increase Caledon State Park's standing in revenue generation and bring it from the bottom of parks system to one of the top in the state. Having the best location, Caledon State Park is 30 minutes from Fredericksburg, and an hour from both Richmond and Washington DC.

Neighbors of the 455-acre, Lake Caledon, are all supporters of this land becoming a State Park. We also have had numerous distinguished visitors invited to view Lake Caledon. Clyde Cristman, the Director of Conservation and Recreation stated, "This would be an incredible addition to Caledon State Park. "This land has access to The Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail which is a non-motorized multi-use trail going from Pittsburg to the Chesapeake. A segment of this trail, called the Dahlgren Railroad Heritage, travels through the marshes for almost a mile to Lake Caledon.

The County of King George is applying for a Land & Water Conservation Fund Grant for this acquisition, to protect and purchase Lake Caledon. The purchase price for Lake Caledon is \$6.6 million and the Grant is a 50/50 match. To be awarded this grant, will give the county 3.3 million leaving the remaining balance to be raised. Senator Richard Stuart is a great advocate to help protect this land and will be submitting a bill for funding in the next session of the general assembly to help with this acquisition. It is our intention to raise the remaining funds, through 300 or less donors, by October 31, 2019.

Conserving Nature and its benefits are an imperative, not a luxury. Join the many people who support our conservation efforts for preserving Lake Caledon. With your financial support, we will fulfil our vision of a lifelong benefit. Has there ever been a better reason.....

How to Donate: The Community Foundation of the Rappahannock River Region, a 501 C-3 company, will be receiving the donations for the campaign. Checks can be mailed to: The Community Foundation, P.O. Box 208, Fredericksburg, VA 22404 with the words "Lake Caledon Fund" in the memo line. Online donations can be made online at <http://www.cfrrr.org/make-a-charitable-impact/current-funds/the-lake-caledon-fund>. Email: lakecaledon4me@gmail.com

*"Lake Caledon, To Connect the love of Nature to whom we all want to Share."*