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Mr. Robert Crickenberger, Director  
Albemarle County Parks and Recreation  
bcricke@albemarle.org

Re: 65+ acres, Blackwell's Hollow Rd., Crozet, VA

Dear Bob,

It was a pleasure speaking with you, Tim, Jim, Amy and Tucker at Albemarle P&R about the property currently being offered for sale by the Byrom family.

My interest in this parcel was sparked by the sight of a "For Sale" sign on property, which is accessed through the Byrom Preserve. Even before I knew anything about the property, it seemed logical to me that the parcel should be incorporated into the Preserve.

I'm told the property is approved for 3 developable lots. An interested buyer or developer could come along at any time. Acting swiftly on acquiring this property makes sense.

With that in mind, I would like to offer to acquire the property and donate it to the county. And if budget and work force are tight, I would even be willing to contribute to the making of trails and resting areas by an outside company.

With both the city and county comprehensive plans calling for greater density (for better or worse), I feel this is a golden opportunity – almost ready made – for the county to add to its stock of public land. As population grows and development takes up more and more precious forest habitat and scenic farmland, the need for outdoor space in Albemarle County will only increase.

As your team noted, this site, with its somewhat gentler topography, would be more accessible to families and the less aerobically fit than the steep terrain of the existing Byrom Preserve. It is particularly well-suited to hikers, picnickers, birdwatchers and other nature lovers. I know there's a lot of pressure to open up our public parks to mountain bikers, and their volunteer corps is very helpful in cutting trails. However, my preference is to limit the recreational use of this parcel to people on foot who are interested in the "slow" appreciation of the place.

Please share this proposal with any county officials who could help move this forward.

With kind regards,

  
Terry Grant