

Opinion: The American Horticultural Society should keep River Farm open to the public

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The American Horticultural Society, owners of River Farm described in the April 14 Metro article “[Fairfax tightens rules on River Farm](#),” not only spurned an offer that was close to the appraised value of the land, but its asking price cannot be squared with its own filings with the Internal Revenue Service. The Form 990, filed by the AHS in January, listed its total “book value” of “land, buildings and equipment” as only \$2.2 million.

Perhaps it should heed the call of the Annenberg Foundation and honor the donor’s wish to keep the property open to the public by accepting the bona fide offer of the Northern Virginia Conservation Trust and NOVA Parks.

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The writer is a member of the board of NOVA Parks.

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