



Throw a Life Preserver to Our Drowning Stream

News from the Friends of Accotink Creek

Our streams are drowning. One of the problems impairing the health of our streams is water itself - a case of too much of a good thing. Homeowners and Civic Associations can help improve storm water management in their yards to keep our streams from drowning.

Flooding has become only partly an act of nature. Development has multiplied the amount of impervious surfaces in our watershed. Even during routine rainstorms, runoff from roads, driveways, roofs, lawns, and parking lots rushes directly down storm drains into local streams, forcing them over their banks, carrying trash, fertilizer, and oil washed off streets and lawns. Natural surfaces with tree cover and sponge-like layers of leaf litter and humus used to allow much of this rainwater to evaporate or seep into groundwater. We are exploring several proven ways to reduce the volume of storm water runoff reaching our streams and enhance groundwater recharging to reduce destructive erosion of the streambed and the amount of silt washed downstream to Lake Accotink.

Throw a life preserver to a drowning stream. Will you get involved and learn more about protecting and restoring the well being of Accotink Creek? The Ravensworth Farms Civic Association is selected for the first Friends of Accotink Creek "Livable Neighborhood Water Stewardship" program to help each homeowner use more of the rainwater around home and save money on the water and sewer bill. For complete program description see:
<http://empowermentinstitute.net/files/WSP.html>.

Check www.accotink.org calendar, contact Friends of Accotink Creek, and ask how you can get involved. Activities provide students community service hours. Many young men earn their "Eagle" and lots of Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts earn badges while protecting Accotink Creek. Visit www.accotink.org and make a real difference to the water quality in Accotink Creek.