

FRIENDS OF ACCOTINK CREEK 2021



Happy Holidays! We hope this finds everyone safe and well, and at least virtually immersed in a local watershed project.

The Friends of Accotink Creek (FACC) is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to protecting, promoting, and restoring Accotink Creek - the second largest watershed in Fairfax County, draining into the Chesapeake Bay. Please consider making a tax-deductible [donation](#) to help FACC grow.

FACC has had another busy year:

- Addressing climate change locally by coordinating weekly invasive plant removals and planting native trees that are carbon sinks. The dozens of trees that we have planted will also help local erosion issues by soaking up hundreds of gallons of stormwater, and prevent future expensive stream restoration projects.
- Advocating for every issue that affects our watershed, trying to negotiate solutions to development that minimize tree loss and paving of natural areas. I.e., [Cinder Bed Road Bikeway](#).
- Coordinating 25 annual trash removals at various locations along the watershed:
 - 12 Spring clean ups, with a total of 255 bags of trash by 287 volunteers.

Fall clean up, with 90 volunteers clearing 142 bags, tires and 40 feet of orange construction safety fence that was most likely swept away from VDOT's I-66 Outside the Beltway construction project.



- Veteran's Day [Americana Drive cleanup](#), an area littered with discarded construction materials; collaborating with local organizations to collect 119 bags, a half dozen tires, and 600 pounds of loose debris. Monitoring pollutants, such as oil spills and illegal sediment discharges in our local waterways, and referring incidents to local authorities.
- Working with local school students to remove invasive species, educate students and plant native plants. Some of the trees that we are planting have a life-span of six hundred years and will prevent erosion, protect pollution from entering our waterways, and ultimately contribute to the long-term health of the Chesapeake Bay.



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- Volunteering with large school groups, Scouts, Faith Groups and corporate organizations.
- Advocating for the most environmentally sound projects such as the dredging of Lake Accotink.
- Quarterly Stream Monitoring Events to educate people to monitor the health of our watershed and do the same within their local watersheds.
- Working alongside organizations like Operation Stream Shield to promote skills to help people who are experiencing homelessness to re-enter the workforce.

FACC also works with environmentally sensitive areas such as the [Accotink Gorge](#), which has rare native plants but is also heavily overrun with invasive wisteria vines - some are the thickness of a person's arm.

[Water Chestnut](#) has infested Lake Accotink and we are doing everything that we can to prevent it from affecting the entire lake.

FACC received the second of their Elly Doyle Park Service Awards as well as a Braddock District Citizens of the Month Award for inviting an ecology expert, Michael Hayslett, to inspect vernal pools in this region to address water quality, which is crucial for sustaining our local salamander and frog populations. We produced high-quality film for schools to show students the necessity of keeping our waters clean.

The Friends of Accotink Creek have achieved great things in 2021 and your donation can help us grow. Please consider making a tax-deductible [donation](#) to our 501(c)3 and please remember us when you are doing your holiday shopping by selecting the Friends of Accotink Creek on Amazon Smile, Goodshop or Goodsearch.

All the best to you in this holiday season, and as always, our dedicated commitment to the local watershed is reflected in our motto:

“Get your brain wet”

SUPPORT/DONATE
It's easy & free!

