

FRIENDS OF ACCOTINK CREEK 2022

Once again, a busy and productive year for the Friends of Accotink Creek. We wish you well for the upcoming holidays and hope to make more connections to local similarly-focused, similarly-minded people and organizations. Please feel free to reach out to us;

<https://www.accotink.org/> We would like to offer you our support, and we also thank you for your continued support to us.

- So far this year, 24 cleanups, in Spring and Fall along FACC's 12 adopted stretches of our local waterways.
- 232 bags of trash, and junk ranging from shopping carts to squash racquets removed from our watershed.
- Veteran's Day Americana Drive cleanup. Americana Drive is a disgraceful suburban dumping ground for construction waste.

Education, advocacy, and monitoring what is going on in our local waterways.



FACC also speaks out for many imperiled local areas, such as the **Accotink Gorge**, pictured above; not as pristine as it looks; a lot of that greenery is invasive Wisteria.

The Gorge teems with rare wildflowers, pollinators and birds, and is home to the most diverse examples of oak hickory forest in the entire Fairfax County Park system. But it is completely overrun with invasive Chinese wisteria. Massive vines, as thick as your arm are killing the canopy trees, our future forests. FACC has petitioned for this truly biodiverse area, as well as coordinating removals of the invasive wisteria. It is not too late to save this oasis, but it will be soon.

Another seriously imperiled area, and this one is deliberate, is the proposed paving and lighting of **Cinder Bed Road**, in the Long Branch south stream valley. Twenty-four hour lighting of the trail is planned which will stress and disrupt the lives of wildlife. Please join us in contacting your local supervisor and making your opinions [known](#). [#SaveCinderBedWoods](#)

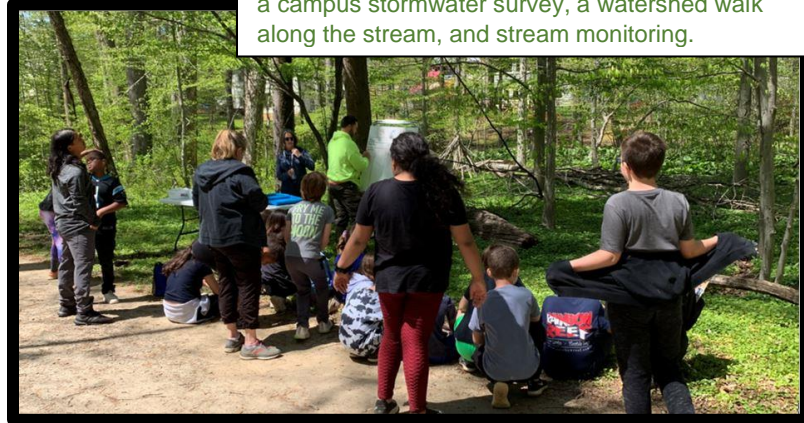
Similarly, the **Pickett Road Connector Trail** is a sad choice to put a trail in the worst possible location. The path would run entirely through the floodplain of Accotink Creek and its Hatmark Branch tributary. <https://www.accotink.org/2022/PickettRoadConnector.htm>

As well as clean ups and petitioning for more environmental approaches to local development, FACC also coordinates volunteers every single week at **Three Invasive Management sites**. We are doing what we can do locally to **combat climate change** and contribute to the health of the Chesapeake Bay by educating, removing invasive plants, and planting native trees.

This month alone, we had sixty students, and dozens of volunteers learning about invasives and then planting. And, incidentally, enjoying every minute of their interaction with the outdoors.

FACC also monitors and reports illegal discharges into our waterways, the one pictured with the white discharge is from a marble cutting business. We don't know what caused the pictured kill of **salamanders and fish**.

'I never realized the stream was so full of life' was one students' comment at this Canterbury Woods Elementary 'Follow the Water' Program. This program allows us to take the time to go deep into the topic, starting with classroom instruction, then a campus stormwater survey, a watershed walk along the stream, and stream monitoring.



Education, and looking to the future are a large part of what we do. FACC has also assisted with the removal of **Water Caltrop** at Lake Accotink, an invasive aquatic plant that has the capacity to take over the entirety of Lake Accotink and exclude all other life in the lake, an arduous toil, wading through deep and sticky mud.

Stream Monitoring continues quarterly to educate people about maintaining the health of our watershed, and encouraging people to do the same within their own local waterways.

Winter Salt Watch – Winter salt harms aquatic life, but we need salt for safety on our roads. Does the salt have to be so thick that it crunches underfoot to still be effective? What can we, as local residents do to help reduce it? <https://www.accotink.org/2022/SaltWatch2022.htm>.

FACC advocates for small steps that we as individuals can do to help. Including with emails, addressing local officials, and using your vote to stay involved in what's happening.

The Friends of Accotink Creek have achieved great things in 2022, receiving a **Volunteer Fairfax Environmental Sustainability**, and a **Stronger Together Award** for our work within the community. All the very best to you in this upcoming holiday season, and please volunteer with us or represent us in any capacity that can help us to grow.

Or please consider making a tax deductible [donation](#) to our 501(c)3 and remember us when you are doing your online holiday shopping by selecting the Friends of Accotink Creek on Amazon Smile, Goodshop or Goodsearch. Join us this holiday season in some capacity, and get your brain wet.

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It's easy & free!