



3033 Chain Bridge Road

Public Meeting August 27, 2025

To: EYA, Urban Ltd, Providence District Supervisor

Thank you for the public event on August 27th. As we discussed, the primary concern of the Friends of Accotink Creek is the preservation of the tiny stream on the project site, both for its benefit to Nature and for its use as a valued amenity for future residents. We were pleased to hear the condenser discharge will continue to supplement the remaining natural flow in the stream. We also expect the enhanced stormwater controls the project will bring will also improve aquifer-fed base flow of the stream.

The [Friends of Accotink Creek webpage](#) includes links to our previous comments submitted regarding this project. It also includes links to the example of the engaging [Woodland Shade Garden](#) at Wolf Trap and to the more low-key treatment of a similar stream at [Cryandall Valley townhomes](#). If we can be useful, we would be pleased to join you at any time for a visit to these sites or to the 3033 project site or to provide any other assistance we can.

We were also happy to hear about the planned invasives management in the nature preserve. The appearance and value of the preserve will be much improved by removal of the invasives and their replacement with appropriate native species. It will be good if invasives control can extend into neighboring Borge Street Park, in collaboration with the ongoing Park Authority invasives control project there.

Signage like this used by the Park Authority may enhance user experience of the nature preserve.

The Watershed Connection

Living by Water
 We've heard talk about Fairfax County being an "urban" county, as if the presence of roads, schools and houses somehow means that the laws of nature no longer apply. Don't worry, the basics are still true. Rain falls from the sky, trees grow in the ground and streams flow to the sea – it is, perhaps, just slightly more complicated when we fit in a whole lot of people too!

From the Air to the Land to the Sea
 Rain, snow, ice and other forms of precipitation hit the ground and must go somewhere. In a forested area, water can be taken up by plants, stored in the soil or flow slowly over the land to a stream. Water that hits hard surfaces such as roof tops, streets, and parking lots rushes into a storm drain that leads to the closest stream. This means that streams are forced to carry more water at a higher rate which can damage the soil, stream, fish and plants. Eventually those little streams combine into big streams that comprise the backbone of the Park Authority's Stream Valley Parks. The creation of park land along our streams helps to protect the streams from some of the effects of urbanization. Evaporation from rivers, bays and oceans returns water into the atmosphere, starting the cycle again.

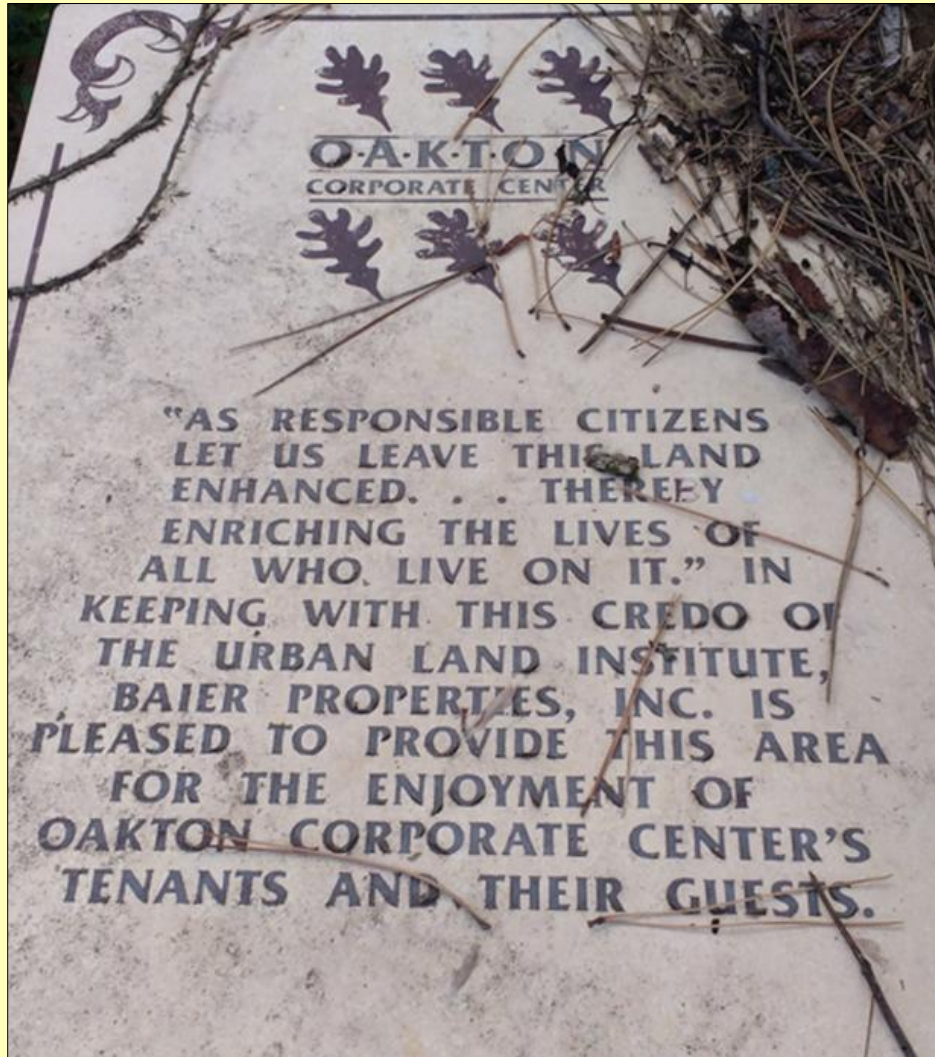
Sheds Water Like a Duck's Back
 A watershed is the land that water runs over, across and under on its way to a water body. All the land in the watershed is uphill of a stream, marsh or river. There is no pre-set limit as to the size or shape of a watershed. Large watersheds often have several smaller watersheds within them. This means that wherever you stand, work or play you are in a watershed! This also means that anything deposited where you stand, work or play also flows into the nearby streams. As rainwater and melting snow run downhill, they carry sediment, oils, pollutants and other materials into our streams. The care and protection that we give our local streams spreads out to benefit areas like the Chesapeake Bay.

Can you find which watershed you are in right now? Which your school is in? Which your house is in?

Fairfax County Stewardship
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/stewardship

You will have safety and aesthetic concerns that require removal of dead or damaged trees. Please consider leaving the lower 15 or 20 feet of such trees standing as “snags” for their wildlife value. [Carving a woodpecker or other wildlife](#) can make the standing trunks do double duty as community art, perhaps aided by small explanatory signage. Of course, we hope new trees of native species will be planted to replace any removed to maintain the wooded character of the open areas that is so special to this site.

We hope you can find a way to incorporate the "triangle" along White Granite Drive into the nature preserve, if only informally. This old sign once located in the triangle provides inspiration.



Friends of Accotink Creek

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