



**Regarding Site Specific Plan Amendment – AT&T Site [PR-004](#)**

**Sent: 1/27/23**  
**To: [eya.com](#)**  
**Subject: Stream at AT&T site**

Thank you to EYA, for a thoughtful proposal to turn this expanse of asphalt into a neighborhood while preserving and expanding tree cover with "potential extension of the Borge Street Park natural space" (p.3) and enhanced stormwater treatment. All of this can only be to the benefit of the Accotink Creek watershed.

We are thinking of the stream running alongside White Granite Drive from near the Post Office driveway to Flagpole Lane.

We hope EYA's environmental commitment will further benefit Accotink Creek by preserving this small stream, which is a branch of the Mosby Woods tributary of Accotink Creek. (The name is an unofficial one used on Fairfax City maps.) It is small and in a degraded condition. It has no legal protection. Still, it is a living stream. The opportunity presents itself to preserve the stream as an amenity in the new neighborhood, rather than lose it forever.

This same little tributary has lost so much to I-66, which recently buried the formerly fish-filled portion that ran through the Chain Bridge Road cloverleaf. Other portions were buried by less enlightened developments of decades past. The egregious [Northfax West](#) project has buried a nearby section of Accotink Creek itself by voiding legal protections. In this nomination, EYA has expressed its understanding that a higher standard is called for.

The vision of this "highly-amenitized gathering place for the community" (p.11) deserves one additional amenity in the form of an attractive and engaging little stream, restored to improved health and freed of the invasive vines that now obscure its banks. The stormwater control enhancements already planned will benefit the stream, and might even return it to a perennial flow, so long as it is preserved. Fairfax County Stormwater Planning Division would be available to collaborate on conservation of the present extent of the stream, or even restoration of former portions now dry.

**Native Plants** - The Friends of Accotink Creek would like to endorse the use of native plants that was urged by several commenters during the January 25th public presentation. Invasive exotic species are gradually taking over huge sections of our native habitats, requiring untold sums of money and countless hours of paid and volunteer labor to combat. Borge Street Park is one of the battle zones and should be spared additional problem exotics on its borders.

**Tree Preservation** - The Friends of Accotink Creek would like to advocate for the conversion of some currently mowed areas beneath trees to natural habitat by means of plantings of native understory shrubs and herbaceous plants. Management of mowed areas beneath trees as wildflower-filled [Freedom lawn](#) is also a positive option.

Sorry to have been a bit wordy, but this is a worthwhile project with promise and potential worth making even better. The preservation of this branch of the Mosby Woods tributary and EYA's goals for this project seem to be made for each other.

## Friends of Accotink Creek

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