



Friends of Accotink Creek 2019



It's been a busy year for the Friends of Accotink Creek; we are working on dozens of projects throughout the community, all with the aim of protecting and championing our watershed. Projects range from monitoring and reporting construction-related sediment issues; to partnering with major upcoming developments, such as

[Inova](#), to advocate for a more environmental approach to inevitable regional development. FACC also coordinates major Spring and Fall trash clean up days at twelve adopted sites, as well as conducting education and outreach programs at schools along the watershed. We are also a stakeholder in the development of a [Salt Management Strategy](#) (SaMS) and have spoken up for the Accotink Watershed at many public meetings and hearings. We conduct weekly invasive removal and habitat restoration projects, [stream monitoring](#), bi-monthly nature journaling, rescuing stranded freshwater mussels after heavy rains, and in general, continuously

monitoring, questioning and advocating throughout the community to protect and preserve our watershed, and to raise awareness - as well as partnering with other organizations to promote and support great initiatives and to help get new 'Friends' groups established.

Here are just a few of the projects that FACC has been involved with in 2019:



During our [Potomac Watershed Clean Up](#) in April and May 2019, 186 volunteers removed 208 bags of trash from our watershed. In FACC's [Fall 2019 International Coastal Clean Up](#) 250 volunteers removed 335 bags of trash from twelve adopted stretches of the Accotink Creek watershed.

FACC also supported a Veteran's Day Clean Up along [Americana Drive](#), coordinated by the Fairfax County Restoration Project. Volunteers removed 62 bags of trash and nearly filled a dumpster. Earlier this year at the President's Day Americana Drive Clean Up at the same site, volunteers collected 352 bags and two dumpster's worth of trash.





Imagine a community where once a month someone led a stream/watershed walk as an outreach opportunity, and served as a connection to county and state initiatives on watershed issues. They showed up at each school and met with each grade at least once a year, outside, to do watershed walks. They built relationships with local, state and national groups that connected local concerns with big-picture advocacy. They gave presentations to local community groups. They helped organize stream cleanups and invasive removals and schoolyard plantings and so on...

Kris Unger

FACC's [Follow the Water](#) school program continues to connect students to their watershed. Students use historical aerial maps to see how their campus has changed over time with the human impact. They take a stormwater tour of their campus to identify pervious and impervious areas and work toward a conservation project to address stormwater runoff issues. They explore a local stream on watershed walks and monitor the stream using chemical and macro-invertebrate testing. They then participate in a project creating or restoring habitat to improve watershed health.

FACC works in so many ways throughout the community to raise watershed awareness and to inspire others to protect and champion critical and intertwined ecosystems.

We've achieved a lot in 2019 and your donation can help us to continue to grow in 2020. Please consider [making a tax deductible donation](#), and please remember us when you are doing your Holiday shopping by using [Amazon Smile](#), [Goodsearch](#) or [Goodshop](#). And we would love to see you at a future [volunteer event](#). Thank you for your continued support and best wishes for you and your loved ones over the holidays.



“Get your brain wet!”

