

THE ACCOTINK CREEK RESTORATION PROJECT



What is the Accotink Creek Restoration project, and how can you help?



WHAT WAS WRONG?

Accotink Creek, a stream whose headwaters are located within the city limits of Fairfax, has been in trouble for many years from uncontrolled runoff that deepened the creek's channel, widened the stream, deposited sediment on important aquatic habitat and caused erosion. Many of the fish and other aquatic life, which are important for the Creek's viability, began to disappear.



WHAT DID THE CITY DO?

The City of Fairfax implemented an ambitious program to restore Accotink Creek to its natural state by contracting with a team of expert stream restoration biologists, ecologists and engineers who developed special techniques of "bioengineering" to restore the Creek. The restoration project stabilized the banks of Accotink Creek, stopped erosion in the stream and restored the habitats that previously existed in the stream and along its banks.



WHAT ARE "BIOENGINEERING" TECHNIQUES

Bioengineering is the analysis, application and use of natural structures to help repair, restore or stabilize sensitive habitats. The three main bioengineering techniques that you can see at work along Accotink Creek are root wads, biologs and riparian reforestation.

DO'S AND DONT'S FOR PROTECTING ACCOTINK CREEK

- ⊘ Never cut your lawn shorter than 1.5 inches
- ⊘ Do not apply fertilizers & pesticides indiscriminately
- ⊘ Never put oil, gasoline, paint or other toxic substances into storm drains.
- ✔ Consider alternatives to grass as lawn cover.
- ✔ Keep the grass in your lawn at least 1.5 inches long.
- ✔ Consider planting more trees around your house.
- ✔ Only fertilize and apply pesticides to your lawn and garden when absolutely necessary.
- ✔ Contact your extension agent for information on the best grasses to plant and how to use chemicals appropriately

ALWAYS REMEMBER WATERSHED STARTS IN YOUR BACKYARD

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT WWW.FAIRFAXVA.GOV