

# THE ACCOTINK CREEK USGS WATER QUALITY GAUGING STATION



## WHAT IS IT?

This station collects water samples during storms which are then analyzed in the lab by the United States Geological Survey (USGS). The USGS is a federal science organization that, in part, 'provides impartial information on the health of our ecosystems and environment'. This station also records data such as temperature and pH around the clock and periodically sends it back to USGS servers via satellite transmissions.

Accotink Creek, a stream whose headwaters are located within the City of Fairfax, receives a high volume of uncontrolled runoff during storm events. To combat the erosive storm flows 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. Goals of the restoration project were to stabilize the banks of Accotink Creek, stop erosion in the stream, and restore the habitats that previously existed in the stream and along its banks. The study that the USGS is now conducting in partnership with the city of Fairfax seeks to evaluate the effectiveness of stream restoration in meeting those goals, and, in general, understand the processes within the stream that impact water quality and ecosystem health. Funding and monitoring for this station are provided by the USGS.

