

Pending Virginia Place Name Proposal before the Domestic Names Committee, USBGN

Augustine Run

Proposal Information

Proposed name	Augustine Run
Proposal type	new commemorative name for unnamed feature
Current official name	n/a
GNIS ID	n/a
Proponent	Steven Albertson; Stafford, VA
Date proposed	3/25/23
BGN case number	6023
Quarterly Review List	451

Feature Details

Primary coordinates	38.427104, -77.504093
Secondary coordinates	38.4554, -77.49542
Feature class	stream
Feature size	2.3 miles long
Feature description	Heads 0.5 miles NW of Moores Corner, flows SSW into Long Branch 1.5 miles WNW of Mountain View
Name history	Named for Augustine Washington (1694-1743), the father of George Washington, who operated the nearby Accokeek Iron Furnace
USGS primary topo map	Storck 1:24,000 (mouth)
State(s)	Virginia
County(s)	Stafford County
Land ownership	private

BGN decisions

- None

Other Names

- Unpublished names: None found
- Published names:
 - Walnut Branch: Stafford County GIS viewer, 2023

Case Summary

The new name Augustine Run is proposed for a 2.3-mile-long unnamed tributary of Long Branch in Stafford County.

The name would commemorate Augustine Washington (1694-1743), the father of George Washington. The proponent states:

Augustine Washington was a major landowner in Stafford County, and the county was home to George Washington from age six to 20. His widowed mother, Mary Ball Washington, kept Stafford as her home until 1772, when son George bought her a house across the Rappahannock River in Fredericksburg.

The particular significance of the “Augustine” name to the feature is that the elder Washington part-owned and operated an iron foundry nearby, known as Accokeek Furnace. This historical feature inspired the naming of the adjacent Colonial Forge High School, and also inspired the names of nearby real estate developments, including the Augustine Golf Course.

The housing development through which the featured to be named flows is named “Augustine at the Glens.”

Augustine Washington owned the Bridges Creek Plantation and the Popes Creek Plantation in present-day Westmoreland County. The George Washington Foundation’s biography of him reports that in 1725, he “entered into an agreement with the Principio Company of England to start an iron works on Accokeek Creek in Stafford County. In 1728, Augustine made an agreement with the company to bear one sixth of the cost of running Accokeek Furnace.” The furnace site is located a few miles east of the stream. In 1735, he moved with his family and second wife to his Little Hunting Creek Plantation, later named Mount Vernon. In 1738, he moved his family to a plantation on the north side of the Rappahannock River in Stafford County, Fredericksburg (this planation was later known as Ferry Farm). His biography also notes that “In addition to planting, Augustine was active in the church and in local politics, serving at various times as justice of the peace and as county sheriff.” Augustine Washington owned enslaved persons at each of his properties.

The proponent “expects there would be no objection or opposition to the proposed name” and states that it is “complementary to the name of the residential development through which it runs.” He also notes that he is “the largest single owner of land on both sides of the proposed Augustine Run.” The Stafford County online GIS viewer labels the stream Walnut Branch but that name is not recorded in GNIS.

Stakeholder Input

Local government	Stafford County
State Names Authority	Virginia
Federal Agency	n/a
Federally Recognized Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X